

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Contender or pretender?
Do any of the contenders offer real competition to Reagan in this year's presidential election?

Happy blend
Can art and money mix, asks Bryan Appleyard? (Spectrum). The Barbican situated in the money-making square mile, may provide an answer.



Milk Cup
Looking ahead to this weekend's all-Merseyside Milk Cup final, David Miller talks to Howard Kendall, once an Everton player, now the team's manager.

Pure delight
A Special Report looks into the legitimacy of Turkey's new parliament. It also tells you how to make Turkish delight - and about wolf-killing dogs.

Health risk shuts record office

The Public Record Office at Kew will be closed until further notice "to avoid risk to the health of public and staff" while samples from the air-conditioning system are tested. The office was reopened last Thursday after a three-week closure.

Illinois boost for Mondale

Mr Walter Mondale's victory over Senator Gary Hart in the Illinois primary has restored the former Vice-President's momentum as front runner for the Democratic presidential nomination.

'Porn' ruling

The Metropolitan Police must grade alleged pornographic material, making value judgments they believe should be left to the courts, after losing a High Court appeal.

Warships bump

A Soviet nuclear submarine collided with the US aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk in Sea of Japan. There were no casualties and no apparent damage to either vessel.

Maze charges

A retired civil servant, his wife and daughter have been charged in connection with the murder of William McConnell, the Maze prison official.

Safety scare

A Spanish investigation into airport safety standards last year has disclosed that only one fire engine at Madrid's Barajas airport was fully operational.

Mortgage cut

National Westminster and Bank of Scotland are cutting their mortgage rates to 10.5 per cent. Lloyds is expected to announce a reduction soon.

Shipyard strike

The 3,000 shipyard workers at Cammell Laird on Merseyside walked out in a union dispute, hours after it was learnt that the yard had lost a vital oil rig order.

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Professor Laurie Taylor on Brian Inglis and the paranormal; Stuart Evans and Antonia Byatt review new fiction
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Thatcher to press for retaliation against Community

● Mrs Thatcher made clear to MPs she will seek Cabinet agreement on some form of retaliatory action against the EEC for withholding Britain's rebate
● The European Commission is putting together the new farm price package agreed by agriculture ministers last week, although the Community cannot afford to pay for it
● President Mitterrand, in conciliatory mood, made it clear that he has no intention of freezing Britain out of the Community, despite the Brussels failure
● Herr Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, insisted that Germany would start immediately on a search for a solution to the questions still open page 7

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

While recrimination was yesterday heaped upon the British Government from the European Community's capital cities, after the breakdown of the Brussels summit, Mrs Margaret Thatcher made plain in the House of Commons that she will today seek the Cabinet's agreement to some form of retaliatory action.

Although it was said that nothing would be decided in haste, the Prime Minister told her former Foreign Secretary, Mr Francis Pym, who advised caution: "I do not think one can go on as if nothing has happened."

The Cabinet will consider a series of detailed options, which officials have carefully prepared against the present crisis, of varying severity. They include draft legislative proposals, again in varying forms, to empower the Government to withhold part of Britain's due payments to the Community, which now run at a monthly net level of £1,000m.

The options vary in the extent to which they would involve challenge in the European Court. It was said in Whitehall yesterday that many member states in the Community had done blatantly illegal things, and there were also many grey areas of Community practices.

But ministers were thought likely today to call for the fullest possible reports, for consideration by the Cabinet next week, on the legal and practical consequences of any step taken.

It was clear that nothing would be done until April 1, by which date the Community would, in the British Government's view, have deliberately courted counter-measures by failing to pay the £457m rebate on the British budget contributions for 1983.

The rebate was agreed by the heads of government at the Stuttgart summit last summer, with what Britain regards as a binding commitment to payment by the end of March.

As the Brussels negotiations ran into the sand on Tuesday night, the foreign affairs council, against the strong protests of Sir Geoffrey Howe, decided to continue to block the rebate.

This step, at the suggestion of France and Italy, was expected but was none the less seen as an arbitrary piece of provocation.

Mrs Thatcher described the move yesterday as "most reprehensible" and "almost intolerable".

But there were clear signs yesterday that any plainly illegal action by Britain in response would cause angry divisions within the Conservative Party. Mr Edward Heath said in a BBC interview that he was certainly not prepared to vote for anything which was plainly unconstitutional and illegal, such as legislation to withhold British payments.

Although Mr Heath's following among Conservative MPs is

now small, many might follow his lead in this. Several cautious voices were raised by the European wing of the party during yesterday's exchanges.

There would be little opposition, however, if the Government decided to delay a Bill which it had proposed to introduce next week to authorise £100m in advance payments to the European Commission, to help meet the Community's pressing cash commitments.

It was widely assumed yesterday that the Bill, to which the Government is not legally bound, will not now proceed.

When Mrs Thatcher reported to the Commons, her disparaging account of her Community colleagues' final offer on the "British problem", and her explanation of her rejection of it were received with far more approval than she could have expected if she had settled on the terms available.

Mr Neil Kinnock was contemptuous that, as banker to the Community and with the client about to go bankrupt, she had still failed to exert her unique power to "get our money".

But he was all for vengeance. There could be no question of going ahead with the "whip-round" for the Community, and he wanted legislation to withhold contributions introduced at once.

Europe's odd woman out, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Mitterrand in mood of conciliation

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand made clear, in a remarkably conciliatory televised interview last night, that he has no intention of freezing Britain out of the EEC. Life in the Community would go on despite the summit failure, he insisted, and it would go on with all 10 members.

Mitterrand firmly declined to denounce or criticise Britain. It was a country he respected, and a great friend of France, he said, and he wanted to preserve that friendship. But Britain must understand that it could not be at one and the same time both inside and outside the Community.

He went out of his way to express sympathy and understanding for Britain's problem over its contributions to the budget. He said he realised the average British income was only three-quarters of that in France. But there were three basic principles on which the Community was based and those must not be touched, otherwise Europe would be destroyed.

He listed those principles as the common agricultural policy, the customs union and Community preference. Britain was not wholly respecting the last of the principles, he suggested.

Mitterrand said it was his desire and intention that the whole Community of 10 member states should move forward together. They had three months to find a solution to the one outstanding problem before the next summit at Fontainebleau in June.

On his return from his official visit to the United States, he intended to take up his task to build Europe into the world power that it could be.



The Queen at the centenary service of St Columba's Church of Scotland in London yesterday (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

Queen will be invited to visit Israel after Jordan trip

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Immediately after returning from the desert kingdom of Jordan, the Queen will receive an official invitation to visit Israel for the first time when she meets Mr Chaim Herzog, the Belfast-born Israeli President, in London early next month. The visit will include talks with Mrs Thatcher.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Herzog - Israel's popular fifth President - said the visit would be a "great state to be received by a British monarch" - said he intends to prefer the invitation during a meeting at Windsor Castle scheduled for April 2. "I think it is high time for normalization in this regard", he said.

The Queen has already come under strong pressure from leaders of Britain's Jewish community to match her controversial trip to Jordan (still a country officially in a state of war with Israel) with a similar one to the Jewish state. Diplomatic observers believe that the timing of Mr Herzog's invitation will make it politically embarrassing to turn down.

The royal visit to Jordan, under the strictest security, begins next Monday. It has



Mr Herzog: 'more should be done.'

aroused considerable resentment in Israel and focused attention on the lack of visits here, even by more junior members of the Royal Family. There is a feeling among Israeli officials that the reason is somehow connected with the alleged pro-Arab bias of the Foreign Office.

During his five-day trip, which begins next Wednesday, President Herzog, an articulate former chief of Military Intelligence and ex-Labour party politician, will be campaigning

hard in public and private for an improvement in the current state of Anglo-Israeli relations. "There is a certain virginal shyness about Britain's attitude to Israel", he told me. "We have found that other countries have been less concerned about Arab reaction and we feel there is more that could be done. It must be remembered that our two countries are important trading partners with reciprocal exports now totalling \$1,000m a year."

Mr Herzog, an affable ex-British Army major who was formerly ambassador at the United Nations, added forcefully: "The British association is very well respected in Israel, where we still have your judicial system, your cabinet system and even streets named after men like Lord Balfour. We feel it should have more expression politically, which means less hesitation from Britain about supporting Israel in international forums."

Speaking at Bet Hanassi, the austere presidential residence, the President outlined the main arguments which he will put forward during his London

Continued on back page, col 3

Pickets close 80% of pits

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

More than 80 per cent of Britain's pits were at a standstill last night as striking miners from Yorkshire and south Wales continued their apparently inexorable progress towards closing collieries in areas which have voted to carry on working.

There were growing signs that within the next few days the flying pickets could bring production to a halt at all but a handful of pits, after meetings by moderate coalfield leaders yesterday which decided to urge members not to cross picket lines.

About 35 pits in Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire, which employ more than 40,000 miners, were the focus of attention as the pickets' stronghold on the Midlands areas increased. There were indications that miners in Lancashire, where there had also been a vote not to strike, were succumbing to picketing.

The 29,000 miners in Nottinghamshire are to be "strongly urged" by their area leaders today not to cross picket lines. The Midlands area council of the National Union of Mineworkers yesterday took a similar decision by advising their 13,000 members to observe picket lines.

Those developments will be seen by left-wing union leaders as a vindication of their resistance to calling a national ballot on strike action against pit closures. Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president, and his closest colleagues are prepared to delay the calling of a special meeting of the union executive, in the expectation that their "domino" strategy would be successful.

In spite of calls from moderate coalfields for a ballot, the national picture last night indicated that the union leadership's hopes of a progressive rundown of coal production, with other areas joining the stoppage, albeit reluctantly, were likely to be fulfilled.

Only 34 out of 175 pits were working normally and large numbers of Yorkshire pickets were understood to be standing by ready to move into Nottinghamshire today, despite the big police presence at the 25 pits in the county.

Union strategists planning the picketing campaign have identified the pits in last week's Nottinghamshire ballot, which showed the strongest support for strike action and these will be targeted as the main areas for mass picketing.

The Midlands area council called on its members at 11 pits in Staffordshire and Warwickshire not to cross picket lines today and at the same time requested the removal of large numbers of police from colliery gates. Officials argued that the only violence on picket lines

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Hepatitis forces Willis home

Bob Willis, the England cricket captain, is to fly back from Pakistan today suffering from a mild form of hepatitis. Willis has been ill for a fortnight and was advised yesterday to come home.

He is the third England player to return early from the ill-fated tour - Ian Botham and Graham Dilley are already back in England - and his departure leaves the team with only 12 players. Norman Gifford, the assistant tour manager and a contracted player with Warwickshire, has been added to the playing strength.

A former England captain, Ray Illingworth, has been dismissed as Yorkshire's cricket manager by the new committee. He had a year of his contract to run.

Reports, page 24

US official denies losing secret list

By Stewart Tendler

A United States naval official yesterday confirmed to *The Times* that he flew out of Heathrow airport, London, hours before a list of British and American officials involved in a highly classified project was discovered in a terminal.

Mr Joseph Thomason's name was on the list but he denies losing the document. He is among 23 scientists, servicemen and officials whose addresses and telephone numbers were found on a three-page document headed "Cold Witness".

The document was spotted tucked behind a telephone booth in terminal three on March 3.

Cold Witness is so sensitive that the Pentagon will not discuss it at all and the Ministry of Defence has admitted that information about the project, which involves radar, is classified. The discovery of the document is believed to have revealed publicly for the first time the existence of the work.

Yesterday Mr Thomason, who works in the radar technique section of the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, told *The Times* he flew out of London on March 3 after an official visit to the Ministry of Defence and the Admiralty. The document was found that evening.

Mr Thomason said he was not surprised his name was on the list, but he denied having lost it. He added that he had not used a telephone at the terminal.

The Ministry of Defence, which admits its embarrassment, has begun an internal inquiry. Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, is to be questioned in the Commons on Friday about the document.

Quarter of Europe's US troops on drugs

By Richard Evans

More than one United States serviceman a day stationed in Britain is being dismissed and sent home for using illegal drugs, including LSD, cocaine and cannabis. Some have been on nuclear weapon duties.

The discharge rate reflects apparently regular drug-taking by up to a quarter of United States troops serving in Europe, according to official Defence Department figures. About 30,000 Americans are based on 100 military sites in Britain and have under their control cruise missiles, bombers and submarines with a nuclear capability and other sophisticated defence equipment.

Last year 455 drugs charges were preferred against United States servicemen in Britain. Most cases - 409 - were dealt with internally and did not reach British courts. The "vast

majority" were discharged from the forces. Yesterday a senior USAF official confirmed that the dismissal rate for drug offences in the first quarter of this year was running at a similar rate.

In 1980 - the latest year for which full worldwide figures are available - out of 5,324 United States servicemen removed from nuclear weapons work, the biggest proportion, 1,726, went because of "drug abuse".

A "totally insignificant" number of servicemen on nuclear duties in Britain had been discharged for drug taking, the USAF official added.

Recently 14 servicemen at Greenham Common, where cruise missiles first arrived in Britain, have been discharged for drug offences. All were in "non-sensitive" positions.

A worldwide survey of the use by military personnel of illegal drugs and alcohol, published last year, disclosed that in Europe 31.4 per cent of United States servicemen admitted to using drugs during the preceding year and, more significantly, 26.7 per cent within the preceding 30 days.

Young low-ranking servicemen were the main offenders, with more than 40 per cent admitting to using drugs during the 12 months.

Cannabis is by far the most commonly used drug but the survey disclosed that nearly one in twelve of the young enlisted men had used both LSD and cocaine during the year.

Multiple drug use was not uncommon and one in ten of the same group admitted having been "high" at work during the 12 months.



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Hackney council fails to get £79m spending limit declared illegal

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Hackney borough council in London failed yesterday to win a court judgment against the spending limit fixed for it by the Government. Mr Justice Forbes said in the High Court that Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, had not acted unreasonably.

The judge said that the court could deal only with the question of whether the Government's decision was legal. It could not be concerned with arguments about the correctness of Mr Jenkin's decision to fix a spending target worth only about four-fifths of what the Labour-controlled council was convinced it needed to spend.

The judgment struck at the heart of opposition by many councils to Government squeezes on spending through grant cuts and rate-capping. Hackney council covers an area officially recognized as being the poorest in Britain and all but 10 of its 60 councillors are Labour.

Hackney is to raise its domestic rates by 17 per cent in the coming year and it is likely to be one of the first councils to be rate capped next year.

Its councillors want to spend about £100m in the coming year while ministers have given them a spending target of £79m based on previous performance.

That is what ministers think they ought to spend, but declining population means that the government assessment of what they need to spend to provide adequate services will fall from just over £99m this year to just under £59m in 1984/85.

Mr Anthony Kendall, leader of the council, said yesterday that the judgment was sad. The council has not yet decided whether to appeal. Had it won, several other Labour-led councils in inner London which are due to be rate capped next year would have brought similar actions against Mr Jenkin.

The judge accepted that Hackney councillors believed that they could not bring their spending down to government targets without breaching their duties in law to provide services.

Mr Jenkin said yesterday that he was disappointed by an official survey which showed that the total labour force of local authorities in England was

rising. Last year the total, expressed as full-time jobs, rose by almost 10,000 to 1,890,000.

GLC challenged

Conservative-controlled Bromley council asked a High Court judge yesterday to outlaw the Greater London Council's membership of the Labour-orientated Association of London Authorities.

Bromley claims that the use of £33,150 of ratepayers' money paid by the GLC to join the association in November, 1983, was unlawful. They want Mr Justice Forbes to declare that subscriptions already paid and all future subscriptions are illegal.

Liverpool support

Labour MPs will be asked today to support Liverpool's rebel councillors in defiance of the line taken by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader (our Political Correspondent writes). Mr Terry Fields, the Militant Tendency supporter who is MP for Liverpool, Broadgreen, yesterday invited MPs who are sponsored by unions with strong local government links to a Commons lobby by Liverpool councillors.



High flier: Mr John Davy and the Firecracker. (Photograph: Tony Weaver).

Ex-RAF officer bids for trainer contract

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

A former squadron leader who retired from the Royal Air Force two years ago with £30,000 capital is leading a bid for a £200m contract to ensure that future RAF pilots are taught to fly on a British-designed aircraft.

Mr John Davy, aged 39, spent 20 years in the RAF, much of it involved with the training of fixed-wing and helicopter pilots.

The RAF has traditionally trained many foreign pilots and Mr Davy realized that the demand for training was greater than the RAF could meet.

When he left the service he set up his own company, Specialist Flying Training, based in Carlisle.

In two years he has devel-

oped a multi-million-pound business, largely by using advanced payments on training contracts to buy assets such as light aircraft and helicopters.

Mr Davy and his associated companies have spent more than £3m in developing the Firecracker aircraft, designed by Mr Desmond Norman in the Isle of Wight, to make it a candidate to replace the RAF's present basic trainer, the Jet Provost, which first entered service in the 1950s.

The Firecracker is the only British-designed aircraft on a shortlist of four which the RAF is considering.

It is possible, although unlikely, that the RAF may decide to renovate the Jet Provosts rather than replace them. If it does decide to

replace, it will need 155 new aircraft in a contract likely ultimately to be worth more than £200m.

Mr Davy believes that if Firecracker were to win the contract, it could pave the way for up to 500 exports.

There are two Firecrackers flying now and a third, with a more powerful engine, will be completed during the summer.

Mr Davy says that it meets almost all the RAF's performance requirements, although a further outlay of between £2m and £3m will be required to make final modifications and to gear up for production.

What is claimed to be the first Spitfire flight simulator for a home computer was launched yesterday at the RAF

Museum in Hendon, north-west London, and was test flown and put through its paces by Air Vice-Marshal Sandy Johnstone, who first flew the real thing 45 years ago.

The Aviator computer program has been designed for use on the BBC microcomputer and displays an instrument panel showing reading of the Spitfire's height, speed (air and vertical) and compass bearings.

Cocky reprieved

Cocky the cockerel, whose owner from Tuckenhay, Devon, lost an appeal against a noise abatement on its crowing, is to have a new home, with eight hens a few miles away.

Some papers 'insulting rubbish' says Kinnock

By Philip Webster, Political reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday told a audience of sixth-form students that substantial parts of the British press were "insulting rubbish" and attacked proprietors, including Mr Rupert Murdoch, whom he said, used their newspapers to defend their commercial interests and political values.

The Labour leader, who was addressing a conference of the Politics Association at Central Hall, Westminster, spoke against nationalization of the media, which he said would be folly.

But he said he understood the immense frustration of people who saw a media that was blatantly distorted, a media which made an impression on people's minds in all parts of the country but which was under the control of four or five people.

He added that those proprietors, generally speaking, "share the same prejudices and are prepared to use their conglomerate control and ownership of the means of information and reporting to defend their commercial interests and their political values".

He added: "I speak of Mr Rupert Murdoch and others more or less like him who control most of the British press".

Public ownership of the media would present the danger that the Government which introduced the system would, under pressure, use it for the purpose of controlling opinion.

"I prefer the much arduous but ultimately much more sure course of political organization and producing an educational system that develops a discerning citizenship, capable of treating substantial parts of the British press for the insulting rubbish that it actually is".

Drilling could stop nuclear waste 'war'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A new way to dispose of radioactive waste, which could end the war of attrition between the nuclear industry and many environmental groups, is being assessed by safety advisers to the Department of the Environment.

The method is the subject of a patent application by Mr Alexander Copson. But the idea is based on work which he has done for the offshore oil industry as a designer with Cluff Oil.

The new venture for developing the disposal process is called Ensec. Its chairman is Lord Newall.

A drilling rig would bore dry holes down to 10,000ft. Torpedo-shaped canisters of waste would be lowered by hawser until the shaft was filled to within 500ft of the seabed. The hole would then be filled with concrete.

The rig, of the multi-legged jack-up type, can be moved to one side and the operation repeated.

Other toxic wastes that cannot be handled safely on

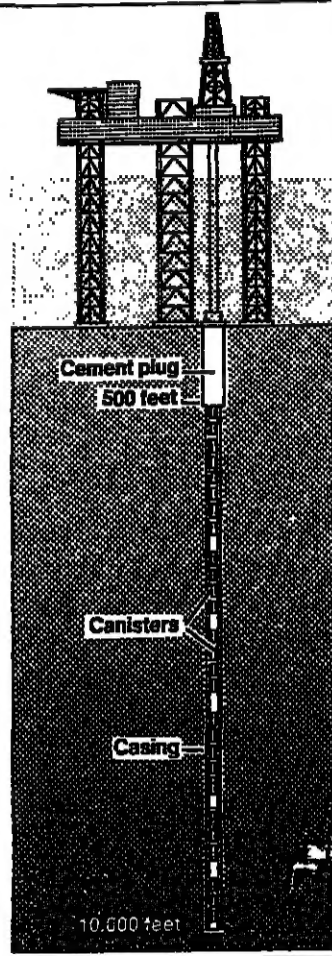
land could be discarded in the same way, Mr Copson says. He regards the drilling installation as a general purpose waste disposal process.

Nevertheless it is intended specifically for intermediate level wastes which are causing the industry so much trouble to dispose of.

It is the material for which the Government's new nuclear waste disposal organization, Nirex, has sought suitable sites for development at Billingham and at Elstow, near Bedford. A proposal by Nirex to use old ICI metal-workings at Billingham has been rejected by the company.

These wastes are kept in concrete vaults of silos at power stations and at Sellafield, Cumbria. There is about 35,000 cubic metres, expected to reach 70,000 cubic metres by the year 2000.

Mr Copson, who consulted environmental groups and the nuclear industry about his designs, estimates the capital cost of installation at about £100m.



Board takes gas-cooled reactor option

The Central Electricity Generating Board announced yesterday that it would start design work next month for an advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) as Sizewell in case its present proposal for a pressurized water reactor (PWR) is rejected.

The announcement was made at the inquiry at the Snape Maltings in Suffolk, where the hearing into the board's plan to establish the American PWR option, has been in session for 15 months.

To date the board has built

British-designed gas-cooled nuclear power stations. Mr John Baker, head of the PWR project, said that the decision to start work on a gas-cooled reactor "did not indicate any lack of confidence in the case for a PWR".

The Board said it needed to make design improvements to its AGR-type to meet increasingly stringent standards insisted on by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, the government safety watchdog.

Local objectors received the news as a sign that the board

believes it is losing the inquiry. Mr Graham Searle, for the Stop Sizewell B Association, said: "The fact is that we don't need an AGR here any more than we need a PWR. But the board's willingness to contemplate an AGR shows how badly they think they are doing with their present PWR application. The board's confidence is already shaken and not before time."

An AGR of similar capacity to the proposed PWR would cost £300m more than the planned American-style reactor. The inquiry continues today.

Intoximeter reports 'not fair'

The *Daily Express* was accused in the Court of Appeal in London yesterday of unfair reporting in its campaign over the reliability of the breath-test machine the Lion Intoximeter 3000.

Mr Anthony Hoolahan, QC, for the manufacturer Lion Laboratories, of Barry, South Glamorgan, claimed that the newspaper had been "whipping up a frenzy" by using phrases such as "scandalous" and "breath-test scandal". Mr Hoolahan told the judges that there were no valid grounds for allowing an appeal by the *Express* and its editor, Sir Larry Lamb, against a High Court ban on using confidential memoranda and information supplied by two former Lion employees.

The *Express* has asked that the ban, imposed by Mr Justice Leonard at Cardiff on March 8, should be lifted on the ground that it was in the public interest.

Government action

The Government is "considering urgently" what steps are needed to restore public confidence in the intoximeter, a Minister of State at the Home Office, Mr Douglas Hurd, said in a Commons written reply.

£1.1m still needed for Duccio

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The future of a £1.8m fourteenth century painting of the Crucifixion, attributed to Duccio, hangs on a meeting of the National Heritage Memorial Fund later today.

Manchester city council's cultural services committee yesterday decided to vote almost £100,000 - the council's acquisitions budget for two years - towards saving the painting for the city's art galleries.

The galleries director, Mr Timothy Clifford, said yesterday he hoped that the fund would vote £1m towards buying the painting, but he felt it was in danger from competition from other areas.

The painting has been bought by the Getty Museum in Malibu for £1.8m, but its export licence has been suspended, to give British organizations the chance to raise the equivalent.

In addition to the Manchester council money, the galleries have been offered £500,000 from the National Art Collections Fund and around £30,000 from patrons.

Excommunication and the churches

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Revival of medieval penalty

Public excommunication, once one of the most dreaded penalties in the medieval penal system, was generally believed to have vanished for ever from the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church until its revival last Sunday by the Bishop of Winchester, Dr John Taylor, in the case of two church members in the village of Poulton, Hampshire.

The last excommunication in the Roman Catholic Church appears to have involved a person in one of the southern states of the United States in the 1960s who had publicly opposed the racial integration of church schools. A leading canon lawyer in London, Father Theodore Davey, said he knew of no other case since then.

Both the Anglican and the Catholic churches derive their present rules on excommunication from medieval canon law. Excommunication imposed by a church court or by a bishop in the past could have led to the death penalty or life

imprisonment with confiscation of property.

From that common origin the two churches have moved in opposite directions, although with similar effects on the concept of excommunication.

In the Church of England it has become so rare that some ecclesiastical lawyers were surprised to find it was still allowed by law, while in the Roman Catholic Church it became devalued by being attached automatically to a very large number of almost trivial offences.

Because it was automatic no formal judgment was necessary by the church, and the situation became impossible to regulate.

The Roman Catholic Church's 1983 code of canon law restricts excommunication to very few offences, with the additional condition that the sin in question is not reduced by any mitigating circumstances.

Thus abortion is still an excommunicable offence, but only in the rather hypothetical

case of a woman who therefore did so out of pure malice. In the past such offences as a Catholic marrying in a non-Catholic church carried automatic excommunication.

That offence on longer exists, and Catholics are permitted to marry in non-Catholic churches, often with a Catholic priest assisting at the ceremony.

A common misunderstanding in the Roman Catholic Church is that it applies to Catholics who have remarried in a register office after divorce. That does not, however, incur excommunication.

In the Church of England it was not until the passage of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure in 1963 that imprisonment for excommunication was removed from English law.

The only remaining penalties of excommunication are the denial of any of the privileges for which communicant status is required, such as membership of a church body.

The coalfields dispute

Jenkin move on police costs

By David Cross

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, has moved to defuse a simmering dispute with local authorities over the cost of policing the miners' dispute, which is running at an estimated £1m a day.

The councils, led by Labour-controlled Nottingham, have complained that their ratepayers will have to foot a large part of the bill through no fault of their own. That would lead to the imposition of higher financial penalties for further exceeding the Government's spending targets.

Mr Jenkins said yesterday that he sympathized with their predicament. He also announced that he would be meeting a delegation from Nottingham County Council today.

Mr Dennis Pettitt, Labour leader of the council, said that it was unfair that local ratepayers should be expected to foot at least half of the £350,000 a day bill. The council is losing about £4,400,000 in government grants for failing to meet spending targets for this financial year.

Derbyshire County Council, where the cost is about

£200,000 a day, has also to the Home Office. "We are already being penalized by the Government for overspending and we just cannot afford to pay any more," Mr Joe Heathcote, deputy leader of the Labour-controlled council, said.

The council described the scale of the police operation as "intimidating and totally unnecessary," and sought government assurances that it would not be called upon to bear any the cost and that any additional costs would not lead to further financial penalties, which total £8,300,000 this year.

Midlands order not to cross picket lines

By Craig Seton

Miners leaders in the Midlands advised 13,000 members at 11 pits in Staffordshire and Warwickshire not to cross picket lines after heavy picketing by south Wales miners especially at Lea Hall colliery, in Rugeley, Staffordshire, where nine men were arrested in scuffles yesterday.

Midlands area miners voted three to one against strike action and the Midlands area council of the National Union of Mineworkers has called for a

national ballot. However, Mr Jim Colgan, the area's general secretary, said yesterday: "It was best that miners did not cross picket lines. We also request the police to remove the vast numbers they have got at certain collieries, and let us handle the situation. At the moment, the only places where there is violence is where there is a big police commitment."

North Derbyshire union officials at a besieged pit in Derbyshire, whose members

belong to the "no strike" Nottinghamshire NUM, were holding an emergency meeting last night after a few men had to run the gauntlet of 400 local pickets to get to work.

Correction

Miss Patricia Eaton (not Easton, as reported on March 17) has been paid £200, not £2,000, of the £12,000 damages and £20,000 costs she was awarded in a libel action against Mr Terry Horsley, who has since been made bankrupt.

Jenkin calls for new policy on housing land

New government policy was needed on housing land because planning was favouring conservation over building, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday.

He told the Commons select committee on the environment that council planners should respond to demands for housing. One-dimensional planning was "positively harmful".

Only a limited amount of demand for housing could be met on reclaimed inner-city sites.

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Painting by Dane makes £71,500

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A fine impressionist painting by Peder Kroger, who carried Impressionism from Paris to Denmark in the last years of the nineteenth century, produced intense interest at Sotheby's yesterday. A private collector, thought to be American, finally bought it at £71,500 (estimate £15,000 to £20,000).

The vendor had bought the painting in an auction in Denmark, less than six months ago, for about £4,000.

This is a reversal of the usual market pattern for nineteenth-century paintings with by far the highest prices paid in the country of origin. It may signal the beginning of an "internationalist" approach.

The painting, "A vintage in the South Tyrol", kneeling peasants picking grapes while sunlight dapples through the vines.

Sotheby's morning sale of nineteenth-century European paintings totalled £603,790, with 22 per cent unsold. While there were some surprise high prices for fine paintings, the middle-range works proved difficult to sell.

Orientalist paintings were again in great demand. "The Harem Juggler" went to the Mathaf Gallery at £29,000 (estimate £6,000 to £8,000), and "Three Arabs in a Courtyard" by Alberto Pasini, sold for £33,100 (estimate £12,000 to £18,000) to a New York dealer.

Rebel resigns

Mr John Pinniger, former political adviser to the Monday Club who has been suspended because of his involvement in a group alleged to be trying to take over the club, last night formally resigned.



Union choice: Brenda Dean. (Photograph: John Manning).

Woman to head Sogat

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Ms Brenda Dean has been elected as the next general secretary of Sogat '82, Britain's biggest print union. She will earn more than £20,000 a year. Miss Dean, aged 40, who is now president of the union, will be the first woman to lead an important industrial craft union.

She beat six men for the top job, just six months after she won the presidency, the second most important post, ahead of 12 male contenders.

She beat Mr Daniel Sergeant, national officer, her nearest rival for the general secretary post by 25,454 to 13,935.

The incumbent, Mr William Keys, aged 61, who is chairman of the TUC's employment

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Police ordered to grade pornography before cases are sent to court

The Metropolitan Police complained in the High Court yesterday that they were being required to make value judgments on what constitutes pornographic material, which they thought was a job for the courts, at a time when the volume of pornography was increasing.

Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Gidwell dismissed an application by Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Commissioner, for a declaration that a ruling by Judge Stable at Snaresbrook Crown Court, east London, requiring the police to grade alleged pornographic material to help magistrates and judges decide whether it should be confiscated under the Obscene Publications Act, 1959, was unlawful.

The judge had made his ruling, given in the form of a practice direction last December, in an attempt to help courts in the east London area deal more swiftly and efficiently with allegedly obscene books,

films, video tapes, magazines and other items.

Rejecting the police argument in the Queen's Bench Division Court, Lord Justice Watkins said the direction, which requires officers to sort through the material and produce samples of the least obscene, more obscene and most obscene, was perfectly lawful.

Lord Justice Watkins said that the case was of great importance for courts all over the country. "They are facing a very, very considerable problem which may prove to be intractable", he said.

In 1981, the amount of material seized in the Metropolitan Police area under the provisions of the Obscene Publications Act had amounted to 554,862 items. Last year that figure had risen to 2,071,190 and magistrates had had to spend weeks reading through it, causing into costly judicial time.

Judge Stable had been entitled to take into account the scale of the problem and had

properly decided that a sampling process was the best way to tackle it.

The defence would be able to challenge the police choice of samples and provide courts with alternative selections.

Lord Justice Watkins suggested, without making a binding decision, that a possible better way of categorizing the material than that chosen at Snaresbrook was to divide it into categories of pornographic perversions.

The case which gave rise to the practice direction being issued involved the seizure by the police in April, 1981, of alleged obscene material from two firms, Conegate and Rolalide, from premises in east London.

Both companies are appealing to Snaresbrook Crown Court against seizure orders involving 434 different magazines (131,000 copies in all), 50 different films and video cassettes (206 copies) and 32 different books (2,259 copies).



Horsepower: Aldaniti, the 1981 Grand National winner, reunited again with Bob Champion at Euston Station, London, yesterday for the naming of an electric locomotive (Photograph: John Manning).

Motor bike rider aged two struck woman

A motorcyclist who lost control of his 40cc machine and crashed into a woman in a park at West Didsbury, Manchester, leaving her seriously injured was not prosecuted by the police because he was two years old.

Instead, the city council in Manchester prosecuted Jamie Wilson's father, Robert Wilson, of Westville Gardens, Burnage, Manchester, for breaking a local by-law. He pleaded guilty by letter yesterday to contravening the parks and pleasure ground regulations by allowing his son to ride the machine, a miniature version of a scabber. He was fined £20.

Mr Peter Main, for the prosecution said that in December last year in Fog Lane Park, West Didsbury, Mr Doreen Hallows, aged 57, of Alan Road, Wilmslow, tried to step out of the way as the boy approached her but failed. She suffered a fractured left wrist and other injuries and needed hospital treatment for eight weeks.

Mr Wilson paid £150 for the machine, which has a top speed of 10mph. Mrs Hallows, who attended court, has needed walking sticks since the accident.

She said: "The court has fined Mr Wilson the maximum and I hope this serves as a lesson to other people. It might prevent others from getting hurt."

Ford may be reported for pricing policy

By Robin Young

Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, threatened yesterday to refer the Ford Motor Company to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for anti-competitive practice and overcharging for replacement body parts.

The Office of Fair Trading reported yesterday that the total market for Ford replacement body parts is worth £35m to £45m, of which less than £6m is filled by independent suppliers.

Parts from Ford are commonly three to four times as expensive as those from independent suppliers. A door-skin which costs £7.97 from an independent supplier is £21.95 from Ford, and a valance for a Ford van costs £5.93 from an independent supplier but £24.06 from Ford.

Ford has also refused to supply part panels to repair corrosion damage, so that a replacement wheel arch for a Ford Fiesta was quoted at £3.73 from an independent supplier, whereas Ford would supply only a full quarter panel for £46.84.

Ford has issued writs recently against 13 independent companies supplying body parts, alleging infringement of copyright.

Ford now has four weeks in which it may offer to modify its policy.

Support for divorce conduct bill

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

Sir John Arnold, president of the Family Division of the High Court, is expected to lend strong support to the Government's proposals to reform the divorce laws when giving evidence before a committee of MPs today.

In written evidence on the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Bill, Sir John rejects claims that the Bill would lead to more disputes over the conduct of parties in divorce cases.

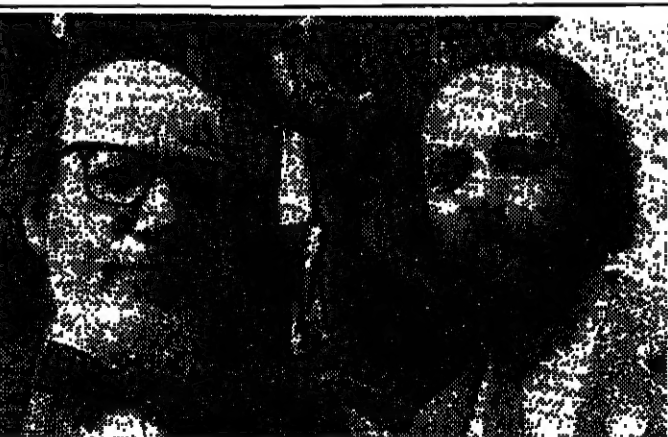
He supports the Government's view that the Bill's conduct provisions, among the most contentious, do no more than restate the law in statutory form.

The controversial "conduct" clause allows the courts, when making financial settlements to take into account the parties' conduct if in the court's opinion it would be "inequitable to disregard it".

Inquest on Russian woman

An inquest into the death of a Russian woman, Mrs Ludmila Vlodimirovna Kilenyeva, aged 29, who fell from the third floor of her home in Paddington, London, on Tuesday, was opened and adjourned until April 25 at Westminster Coroners' Court yesterday.

Mrs Klimova, of 22 Hyde Park Square, was identified by her husband, Mr Alexander Klimov, a Russian translator at the London headquarters of the International Maritime Organization.



Message of unity: By what might be viewed as an unfortunate accident of timing, the Post Office yesterday unveiled four stamps celebrating European unity, to be issued on May 15 (Alan Hamilton writes).

One of the two basic designs, a simple bridge with perhaps significantly unsupported ends demonstrating European postal unity, is the work of the French designer Jacky Larriviere (right). It was the winner of a competition among the 26 postal authorities of the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications to mark its 25th anniversary. The design will appear on the stamps of all member countries.

Terrorized tenants freed

Seven "magnificent" tenants, told at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of their terror at the hands of a brutal landlord.

He hired a gang of 20 skinhead thugs who threw them out into the street with their possessions. Judge Gibbons QC said the seven tenants were right to defend themselves. When all lawful means failed, the tenants armed themselves in preparation to repel further attacks from the gang, who had been paid to evict them from a house unfit for human habitation, the judge added.

With 10 other tenants, they had been living in a "hellhole" house in Fairway Road, Leytonstone, east London where rooms were rented at £56 a week.

Judge Gibbons freed the

tenants when he stopped their trial on the third day. Five men and two women were found not guilty of unlawfully possessing explosives, a crate Molotov cocktails.

The tenants' "only object" in manufacturing the bombs was so that they could hurl them out of the windows to raise the alarm and scare off attackers. Preparations for self-defence and the making of the bombs was not "unreasonable" and the tenants felt they had to win and defeat the skinheads, Judge Gibbons added.

As the tenants, all unemployed, celebrated, the police launched a hunt for their landlord, Mr Ran Shama, aged 70, an Indian who is wanted for an alleged fraud on the Department of Health and Social Security. He is believed to have

sold his assets and to be abroad.

Mr Shama, owner of several properties in the East End of London, estimated to have made £30,000 a year from a slum house which the acquitted tenants occupied. The DHSS, which paid their rents.

On the day of the attack, "the wicked old landlord" was giving an undertaking to a judge at Bow County court that his tenants would not be harassed, Judge Gibbons said.

He directed a jury to clear the tenants, Mr Anthony Whitehouse, aged 20, Mr Colin Davies, aged 23, Mr Christopher McCabe, aged 21, Mr Gary Davies, aged 20, Miss Sue Honour, aged 31, and Mr Lindsay Vadevaloo, aged 24, all of whom have now been rehoused.

Micro manufacture held up at IBM

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

IBM, the multinational computer manufacturer, has become a casualty of the world microchip shortage and is unable to produce enough of its personal microcomputers in Britain to meet demand.

The American-owned company has restricted its 200 British dealers to 25 machines a month and delivery four weeks after orders are received. Similar constraints are being imposed on the other 800 European dealers.

The IBM PC microcomputer has been popular with business users since its introduction in the United States about three

years ago. It was introduced in Britain at the beginning of last year.

It is made for the European market at IBM's factory in Greenock, Renfrewshire, but the manufacture relies on microchips supplied by the United States microelectronics group, Intel.

The world shortage of microelectronics components - due to the high technology boom - has affected many manufacturers recently. As a result large companies have bought shares in semiconductor groups and created their own manufacturing plants.

Top salary rises lag behind the average

By Michael Prest

Senior executives' salaries rose more slowly in the second half of last year than did average earnings for the whole labour force, according to a survey of directors' and managers' rises conducted by Inibucan Management Consultants.

Inibucan's monitor of salary increases shows that from July 1, 1983, to the end of December the average increase awarded to directors and managers was 6.7 per cent. The corresponding

Year (July 1-June 30)	SENIOR EXECUTIVES' SALARIES				
	1979/80	1980/81	1981/82	1982/83	Second half 1983
Inibucan average increase (per cent)	19	12	11	9.5	8.7
Average earnings increase (whole economy)	16	11	6.8	8.2	8
Inflation increase (Retail Price Index)	16.8	13	8.7	3.7	1.9

DHSS gave names to detectives

The Department of Health and Social Security admitted yesterday that it gave pregnant women's names and addresses to murder squad detectives investigating the death of a newly born baby found badly burned in a field.

Mr Kenneth Weetch Labour MP for Ipswich, Suffolk, protested that the disclosure smacked of "1984 and Big Brother". He said it was a clear breach of confidentiality rules and said he would raise the matter with the Home Secretary.

A welfare officer, Mr Neville Bunting, said that officials were right to co-operate with the police in such a serious case.

Mrs Lorna Byrne had been visited by two policemen at her home in Ipswich.

Mrs Byrne, who is eight months pregnant, said: "I was so upset afterwards that I just burst into tears and had to go to a neighbour's house. I dread to think what effect such an experience might have had on a young wife expecting her first child."

Job bonus appeal on Sunday trading

By a Staff Reporter

One of Britain's largest retailer of do-it-yourself supplies, the B & O group, has told a government committee of inquiry that it could employ an additional 1,380 staff if Sunday trading was made legal in England and Wales.

B & O has 18 stores in Scotland, where there are no restrictions on Sunday opening. It says that its staff costs as a proportion of turnover in Scotland are one-tenth below the average for England and Wales.

It says that that shows that seven-day trading can produce retailing economies which lead to lower prices. If additional staff were recruited for Sunday opening the efficiency within a higher turnover, the group's spokesman claimed.

Sir Terence Conran, chairman of Habitat Mothercare, said in evidence that there was

an overwhelming demand for Sunday opening for furniture shops, where families needed to shop together to decide what to buy.

Sir Terence told the committee that some of Habitat's stores in England did as much of their business on a Sunday as did some of their Scottish stores. Habitat would develop Sunday trading if permitted to do so, and would experiment with late-night opening.

● The removal of statutory prohibitions on Sunday trading is likely to be strongly opposed by the churches. (Our Religious Affairs, Correspondent writes).

The British Council of Churches and the Free Church Federal Council are expected to ask members to resist any government measure to lift Sunday opening restrictions.

In a report from a joint committee, just published, there are indications that it will

become official policy in all churches. It advocates some tidying up of legislation, but suggests several reasons, religious and others, why there should be no basic change.

The Government has set up a committee of inquiry to collect evidence of the state of public opinion and the case for relaxing restrictions.

The report is to be considered by the Free Church Federal Council and British Council of Churches this month and passed to member churches to adopt as their evidence to the committee of inquiry. The joint committee did not discover any serious dissent in churches to its line.

● The development committee of the Western Isles Council yesterday refused to allow a contractor to carry out Sunday work during the construction of the fishmeal factory at Ardvencish in Barra.

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PARLIAMENT March 21 1984

PM promises to continue fight for fair deal in Europe

EEC SUMMIT

There would not be a stable or effective European Community until the budgetary contributions of the 10 member states were related to economic circumstances and ability to pay. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, declared in replying to questions in the Commons on her statement about the failure to the EEC heads of state and government to reach agreement at the European summit.

Mr Francis Pym, the former Foreign Secretary, said it would be wise to resist the temptation to withhold contributions and Dr David Owen, also a former Foreign Secretary, indicated there were some who would resist any suggestion to withhold payments.

Mr Thatcher said: As the House will already know, the Council did not reach agreement on the reform of the Community's finances nor on any of the matters before it.

made clear at the summit in Stuttgart last year that the United Kingdom would be prepared to consider an increase in the Community's financial resources but only on condition that there was effective control of agricultural and other spending and that there was a fair sharing of the budget burden.

We made progress towards securing control of spending, by first, an annual limit on agricultural expenditure and, second, a strict financial guideline on agricultural expenditure.

The French Presidency also proposed a lasting system for a fair sharing of the budget burden. We would have been able to accept this system but some other member states, despite the long discussions over the last nine months, were still unable to do so.

Nor were we able to reach agreement on the level of the United Kingdom net contribution which would result from the application of the system.

The Council also had a long discussion on the agricultural problems which had been remitted from the Agriculture Council.

Ireland sought exemption from the super-levy on a quantity of milk which would have been higher than their 1983 production.

Their demands and those of other member states would have led to milk production well over one million tonnes in excess of the production level set earlier by Agriculture Ministers for the Community as a whole.

Further discussion of the agricultural package will take place in the Agriculture Council next week.

We made a sustained attempt to reach a satisfactory compromise on all the matters at issue. At the end of the discussions, the proposition which the United Kingdom was invited to accept was:

First, that instead of a lasting, equitable system for Community financing there should be a five-year ad hoc arrangement which would have left us receiving less than the average refund which we received in the years 1980 to 1983.

Second, that we should endorse the unsatisfactory and discriminatory arrangements for milk which I have already described.

Third, that we should accept an increase in the Community's VAT resources to 1.4 per cent in 1986 and have in prospect a possible further increase two years later to 1.6 per cent.

I made it plain that neither I nor the British Parliament could accept such a package. Therefore, I did not agree to any increase in the Community's resources. The 1 per cent VAT ceiling remains.

Immediately following the European Council, the Council for Ministers (Foreign Affairs) met in order to see whether the objections of some member states to the regulations necessary to implement the United Kingdom's 1983 refund of 750 million ecu net which was agreed last year could be removed.

But France and Italy blocked these regulations. The Government is considering what action we should now take to safeguard our position.

The Community is in a difficult situation. We shall however persevere in our efforts to achieve a reform of its finances and to make its internal and external policies more relevant to the needs of today's world.

I want to see a more effective Community developing to its full potential. That is the Community in which I believe.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, questioning the Prime Minister on her statement, said it meant that she had failed to get repayment of the £500m rebate by the target date which she had deliberately set.

Nearly nine months after the Stuttgart summit, the said Prime Minister is even further away from securing agreement to end the injustice of the British budget deficit and is isolated even from those who were prepared to help.

IF SHE HAD BEEN GOING TO BRUSSELS

As a supplier, her lack of achievement might have been regrettable but understandable but will she explain how, as banker to the Community with the client about to go bankrupt, she still failed to exert her unique power to achieve the agreement that would safeguard our interests and get out money?

It is nothing short of outrageous at a time when there are 15 million unemployed in the Common Market that the leaders of western Europe could meet for three successive summits and still not produce a proposal for economic expansion that out of country of Britain and continent of Europe so desperately need (Conservative Interjections).

As for the Government, considering what action it should take to safeguard our position, will she accept that in any consideration undertaken by the government, there can be no question of contributing to a Common Market whip round in the form of supplementary estimates before this House and that any business produce proposal for that kind is hereby withdrawn?

Mrs Thatcher: He says that we failed to get payment of the refunds. I agree that it was not forthcoming but he should direct his criticisms to France and Italy, (Labour protests).

It was France and Italy who deliberately blocked the regulations. That agreement came about in Stuttgart last year and it is reprehensible that the Community has not so far honoured its obligations.

We had help from a number of colleagues in the summit; he is right. With regard to getting a reasonable permanent equitable financial arrangement, President Mitterrand was most helpful and so were a number of colleagues, but not all were ready to have a system and therefore proposed an ad hoc arrangement.

Having been at this for some time, as have my predecessors because we are all hampered by the system of "own resources" agreed in 1970, I still believe we need a permanent equitable financial arrangement. The view is shared by the European Parliament. The fact is that some of our colleagues prefer the present system.

He does not understand the difference between a loan and a grant for expansion, we were concentrating, as we did in Athens, on trying to get agreement on a package of measures referred up to the European Council. The ten failed to agree. (Labour protests and interruptions).

He wants me to agree to that package? To agree with the majority? To agree to the 1.4 VAT increase which would have caused great trouble to our farmers because the essence was that there was discrimination?

Would Mr Kinnock prefer that I should have gone with the Nine but not gone on bating for a fair deal for Britain?

On the supplementary estimate, the Community is already above 1 per cent VAT; it is already spending 1 per cent VAT.

On the question of action following the refusal to let us have our refunds by March 31, it is not legal necessity but habit and custom, and the Cabinet will obviously be considering tomorrow.

Mrs Thatcher: With regard to regional funds, every penny spent by the Community is more than covered by expenditure by the British taxpayer or consumer.

We have covered all that, we are still a substantial net contributor across the exchanges to Brussels.

Mr Norman St John-Stevas (Chelmsford, C): To seek a permanent solution to the budget problem is in fact to be both patriotic and a good European because how can there be a prosperous and on-going Community when one of the leading members is continually ranking under a sense of injustice?

In view of reservations by other members on the proposed system by the French President, would she initiate a constructive and vigorous series of bilateral talks through the Foreign Office so that by the time of the next summit this problem can be disposed of?

Mrs Thatcher: We shall not get a stable or effective Community until the budgetary contributions are related to economic circumstances

(Thursday) morning what action is best to take and will make a statement.

Mr Francis Pym (South East Cambridgeshire, C): As a more determined attempt than ever before was made to reach agreement and, as she said, she lived to fight another day and has told the House she is going to, and in view of the magnitude of the issues raised by the principle, practice and legality of withholding, does she not agree it would be wise to resist the temptation to withhold?

It is wise first to discuss the matter in Cabinet tomorrow (Thursday) morning, but I do not think one can go on as if nothing has happened. Those refunds should have been given to achieve.

We have had a number of bilateral discussions between meetings and we shall continue to have more because the present situation is really not sustainable. We are entitled to the same fairness and equity as we always agree to offer to others.

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP: She said last night there was only a narrow divide. With skill that gap can be closed but the way to close it is not for Britain to take an illegal action.

Would she recall the words she said in September of last year that Britain sticks to its treaties and that countries that break their treaties on other occasions may break them on other occasions? If that was acceptable as a lecture to the Chinese Government surely that is something the Prime Minister should stick by.

Is she entitled to go to the Community and talk about the will of Parliament until she has tested the will of Parliament? Some of us will resist any legislation to withhold payment in this situation.

Mrs Thatcher: There was a comparatively narrow gap between us towards the end and I use that as evidence of the strenuous efforts we have made to compromise because we genuinely wanted a settlement. The gap they offered us was, of course, not a permanent system. That was a big gap. We did need a permanent agreement. That is really an enormous gap and we must go back to that one.

In so far as the gap was small for one contributor, it was smaller still for the other nine who rejected it because it could have been allocated among them.

Although there is no exact precedent for the present situation in which two member states have blocked refund regulations implemented by the European Council, there have been previous occasions when small amounts of money have been held back.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP): Ignoring the loud protests of those who have run away from their own election pledges, Mrs Thatcher's stand at Brussels corresponds as it often does, with the instincts and wishes of the British people.

We have the full-hearted consent of Parliament and people to her insistence that this country shall have its rightful needs.

Mrs Thatcher: I am grateful to him. We are entitled to a fair and reasonable deal and shall go on fighting for just that.

Mr Henry Belling (Leeds South and Morley, Lab): What advice is Mrs Thatcher going to give the Cabinet tomorrow when they meet under these most unusual circumstances - (Laughter) - as to what we should do if these European Johnnies do not give in to her demands?

Mrs Thatcher: He will have to wait 30 years for the records, unless he is lucky to have an early leak.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (South Thanet, C): Her courageous stand in Brussels yesterday will be greeted by Conservative MPs and throughout

the country not merely with warm support but positive jubilation.

There is plenty more support if she decides to withdraw the Cabinet to introduce the necessary withholding legislation next week.

Mrs Thatcher: We did not strive hard to reach a settlement. We were prepared to compromise where it was reasonable to do so. But the package was unacceptable and therefore the decision we took was correct.

Mr Eric Deakin (Walthamstow, Lab): The rule out any system based on refunds in view of what has happened to our 1983 refunds?

Mrs Thatcher: I still believe we are right in adopting either net contribution or net benefits as the right criteria for getting an equitable financial settlement.

Sir Anthony Kershaw (Stroud, C): Accepting that it was impossible to ask Parliament or the British people to accept a solution that they regard as basically unfair, does she not face the reality that the figures and Community jargon we may lose sight of the main purpose of the Community to ensure peace and democracy in Europe?

Mrs Thatcher: It is precisely because I want to get away from the annual or biannual waffle of figures and Community jargon that we want a lasting system.

We were near to getting one. If we persevere I think we shall be able to get a system but we have to put in place the figures which would ensure that our net contribution is reasonable.

Mr Roy Jenkins (Glasgow, Hillhead, SDP): A former president of the EEC Commission, said that Anglo-French dispute could be deepening. So would the Prime Minister like it explicit that President Mitterrand had played a constructive role in trying for a solution?

In considering whether to withhold payment (the continued) will Mrs Thatcher consider the dangers of following the example of Liverpool City Council and responding to a budget position, with which she does not agree, by illegality?

Mrs Thatcher: This is not a British-French problem. It is much wider than that. President Mitterrand was helpful in trying to reach agreement on the compromise on the figures but we were just not able to close the final gap.

Mr George Gardiner (Reigate, C): Though nobody wishes to see this dispute escalate, the Government would be enabled to win friends and support by withdrawing an equivalent amount from our budgetary contribution, at least pending the next European Council meeting.

Mrs Thatcher: That blocking was unwise and will sour relations. Those refunds were agreed in Stuttgart last June. I hope they will soon unlock those funds. Meanwhile we must consider what action we can take to safeguard our position.

Mr Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw, Lab): Mrs Thatcher is breaking the law. Has she not gone on strike against the Common Market? And what is the difference in her position and those of the National Union of Mineworkers or the Labour councillors who refuse to carry on with the arrangements?

Glass she brought her rose coloured glasses today to distinguish herself from Arthur Scargill? (Laughter).

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Mrs Thatcher: It is precisely because I want to get away from the annual or biannual waffle of figures and Community jargon that we want a lasting system.

We were near to getting one. If we persevere I think we shall be able to get a system but we have to put in place the figures which would ensure that our net contribution is reasonable.

Mr Roy Jenkins (Glasgow, Hillhead, SDP): A former president of the EEC Commission, said that Anglo-French dispute could be deepening. So would the Prime Minister like it explicit that President Mitterrand had played a constructive role in trying for a solution?

In considering whether to withhold payment (the continued) will Mrs Thatcher consider the dangers of following the example of Liverpool City Council and responding to a budget position, with which she does not agree, by illegality?

Mrs Thatcher: This is not a British-French problem. It is much wider than that. President Mitterrand was helpful in trying to reach agreement on the compromise on the figures but we were just not able to close the final gap.

Mr George Gardiner (Reigate, C): Though nobody wishes to see this dispute escalate, the Government would be enabled to win friends and support by withdrawing an equivalent amount from our budgetary contribution, at least pending the next European Council meeting.

Mrs Thatcher: That blocking was unwise and will sour relations. Those refunds were agreed in Stuttgart last June. I hope they will soon unlock those funds. Meanwhile we must consider what action we can take to safeguard our position.

Mr Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw, Lab): Mrs Thatcher is breaking the law. Has she not gone on strike against the Common Market? And what is the difference in her position and those of the National Union of Mineworkers or the Labour councillors who refuse to carry on with the arrangements?

Glass she brought her rose coloured glasses today to distinguish herself from Arthur Scargill? (Laughter).

legal consequences before one makes such a statement. We must take steps to safeguard our position.

If there were strict financial constraints on the budget, particularly in the agricultural budget, and they were in the budget procedures so they could bite, plus a fair share of the burden, we would consider an increase in our resources.

Such an increase to be ratified by each of the other parliaments in the Community.

Mr Edward Heath (Old Bexley and Sidcup, C) the former Prime Minister: To have reached agreement on three of the main factors under discussion at the summit is a remarkable achievement and to have reached agreement on strict financial discipline for which we have been rightly pressing is a major step forward.

For agricultural ministers to have reached broad agreement, except for Northern Ireland, and own resources of the Community being increased to 1.4 per cent, is a major achievement unlike any other summit which has preceded it.

The difference between the offer made by President Mitterrand and ourselves was reduced to 15 per cent, to 85 per cent of what was being asked for by Britain out of 100 per cent is a narrow gap.

As for the time limit, five years is a considerable time, but if it is possible to get acceptance for a permanent system, we would support it.

It is a remarkable achievement for which she should have credit.

On the rebate, President Mitterrand always made clear it was being asked for by Britain out of 100 per cent is a narrow gap.

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There is no agreement on own resources unless there is agreement on other things. The prevailing decision on own resources were further than most of us wished in that they proposed 1.4 per cent in 1986 and envisaged a prospect of 1.6 per cent in 1988. That was also hotly contested.

With regard to the gap on the British contribution, this is much wider than it seems. The gap was the system and the amount. Nevertheless, we went a long way to try to reach agreement and I am sorry we did not achieve an agreement satisfactory to Britain.

Earlier, during questions on EEC matters the Secretary of State, Mr David Knox (Staffordshire, Conservative, C) asked: Would it not be better to give more attention to developing the Community and rather less attention to the petty cash accounts?

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs: He is entitled to his view of the significance of the sums involved, but the need to secure fair and lasting arrangements for the budgetary balance of the Community is one of the crucial factors with which yesterday's talks were concerned.

I do not think the Community is likely to have a secure future if the kind he would wish unless we are able to resolve that question.

Mr Stuart Bell (Middlesex, Lab): When he sets aside the petty cash account, would he turn into an account that there are 14 million people unemployed in Europe today and will he come forward with constructive proposals so that that figure is reduced?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The number of people unemployed in the Community mirrors the situation which prevails in most parts of the world. He is right to emphasize that one of the most important objectives of policy for the Community must be success in reducing that number.

Mr Michael Fallon (Dorset, C): Would he reaffirm our commitment to the goal of a truly free European market?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am delighted to do that. There are many measures that need to be taken, and some were being discussed at the European Council, to remove regulations and obstacles that interfere with a liberal market economy within the Community are removed.

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on European and Community affairs: In order that we can judge the petty cash account, will he share with the House details of the proposals he apparently accepted yesterday to increase own resources?

How did he hope to get concessions on the budget if he was willing to surrender in advance a 40 per cent increase in our own resources?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I have no such hope because there was no question of my doing any such thing. The consideration of all questions before the European Council were all directly related to each other and it was plain to all those taking part that unless we were able to secure agreement on a comprehensive system of heating allowances to protect all vulnerable groups from high fuel costs and the risk of fuel disconnection.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Energy, moved Government amendment seeking the fact that gas and electricity price increases were below inflation rate and that the Government had maintained and improved the real value of social security benefits.

This was after Mr Donald Anderson (Swansea East, Lab) asked it if it was true that negotiations for the purchase by the Chilean Navy of HMS Hermes, the Antrim, two frigates and 24 Sea Harriers had been concluded.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Debates on foreign affairs and on the CAP. Lords (3): Housing and Building Control Bill, report, first day.

getting a comprehensive peace settlement before a major explosion takes place in that area?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I am interested in what Mr Walters says about the reasons lying behind the recent remarks made by King Hussein. I would not comment on what they imply as to relations between his country and the United States. But plainly the voice of King Hussein and Jordan is one which has an important and leading part to play in the search for a settlement in that area and bringing together the voice of moderate Arabs.

I am not sure that the proposal of a conference has any part to play at this stage.

Arms sales to Chile Certain arms sales negotiations with Chile were in progress but none had been concluded. Mr Raymond Whitney, Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said.

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Regional trends 1: Life styles

More uniformity but differences are still marked

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Workers in Wales are the most strike-prone in the United Kingdom, according to the latest set of official statistics for the regions. In recent years they have been up to five times more likely to take industrial action than workers in the South-east and East Anglia.

The figures, published today, confirm that inhabitants of the United Kingdom are becoming alike. For example there is not much variation in the growing trend towards centrally heated housing, and regional wage rates show only slight differences.

But there remain differences in life style. People in the Black Country apparently do considerable more home baking than anyone else; Tyneside women do not drive; two thirds of Welsh children go to nursery school compared with under one third of their London contemporaries; the ancient Scottish affinity for medicine still means that Scotland is more generously endowed with hospitals beds and general practitioners than anywhere else.

The civil servants who collect these figures have left a number of puzzles. Why do the people of Birmingham and Wolverhampton eat more fish than the national average? Why do the canny Scots, of whom a large number walk to work, own the newest cars in Britain?

Why are the inhabitants of Devon and Cornwall so markedly law-abiding - half as many offences are notified to the police in the South West as in Lancashire, Manchester and Merseyside?

The regional figures pinpoint Britain's growth areas as, primarily East Anglia and the Home Counties around London. Projecting forward to the end of the century, the Central Statistical Office says the drain of people from Liverpool and Manchester, from Durham and Tyneside, and from central London will continue. Growth areas include Buckinghamshire (27 per cent by the year 2000), Hereford, Wiltshire and West Wales.

Were Mrs Thatcher to look for soulmates she might find them in the regions with high levels of owner occupation. The average is 36 per cent of all households. The level is considerably higher not only, as might be expected, in Surrey and Sussex but also in Lancashire (71 per cent) and Wales (60 per cent); in the centre and west of Scotland only a third of homes are owner occupied.

The most "British" of all the regions is without doubt the North-east where the smallest fraction (less than 2 per cent) was born outside the boundaries of the United Kingdom. Only 1.6 per cent of Northumberland's population was foreign born, a figure smaller even than the Scottish islands

WHERE THE CHEAP HOUSES ARE

	Average price of house (£)	% of total sales
North	20,000	2.8
Yorkshire and Humberside	18,400	2.4
East Midlands	20,500	3.3
East Anglia	24,200	4.6
South-east	30,800	5.8
South-west	25,500	3.2
W Midlands	22,000	3.3
North-west	21,500	4.1
Wales	20,800	3.1
Scotland	24,200	3.4
N Ireland	22,500	5.4

based on figures for mortgages and excluding sales to sitting council tenants.

WHO GETS THE BENEFIT?

	Social benefits per head (£)
North	518
Yorkshire and Humberside	431
East Midlands	437
East Anglia	437
South-east	457
South-west	464
W Midlands	448
North-west	506
Wales	518
Scotland	494
N Ireland	488

*National insurance, supplementary and child benefits.

WHERE THE ROADS ARE SAFEST

	Accidents per 100 kilometres of road
North	16
Yorkshire and Humberside	21
East Midlands	21
East Anglia	22
South-east (excl GLC)	27
Greater London	61
South-west	16
North-west	21
Wales	10
Scotland	16

*Accidents involving death or serious injury to at least one person.

and contrasting with Greater London's 18 per cent.

Despite the efforts of the National Health Service to allocate resources fairly, there remain important differences in the access of people to hospital beds and doctors. In part, this reflects the health of the regions: infant mortality is notably higher in Northern Ireland, the West Midlands and the North-west. In part, attitude to medical care are different: the rate of abortions per 1,000 women of child-bearing age in London is nearly twice that of Scotland, the South-west and the North.

Another factor is simply the availability of health services. There are more than 11 hospital beds for every 1,000 people in Scotland compared with less than 6 in the Oxford health area. Oxford's beds are most heavily used, however: in 1981 some 20 cases were treated in each of the area's beds compared with a UK average of 16 and less than 13 in the South-west London area.

Tomorrow: The decline of the West Midlands and the rise of Scotland.

Regional Trends (Stationary Office, £18.50).



Violinist honoured: Yehudi Menuhin right, receiving the *Plaque du bi-Millenaire de la Ville de Paris* from The Mayor of Paris, M Jacques Chirac. The award is for services to Paris over the years.

Life for trucker who drove into bar

A man who drove his lorry into the bar of the Inland Motel Bar at Ayers Rock, central Australia, last August killing five people and injuring 30 was yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment for murder.

From Tony Dahoudia Melbourne

Douglas Crabbe, aged 36, received a life sentence on each of five charges in the Northern Territory Supreme Court. The jury took four and a half hours

to reach a unanimous verdict.

Mr Crabbe, demolished a large part of the motel when his 120-tonne juggernaut ploughed into the bar shortly after he was ejected after having been refused a drink.

Kaunda mediation sought after Pretoria's anger at rhetoric from Angola

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Fresh talks at ministerial level between Angola and an angry South Africa were suggested by diplomatic sources here yesterday. The communiqué issued in Havana on Monday by President Castro and President Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola, setting out conditions for the withdrawal of Cuban forces and harshly criticizing "the disgraceful apartheid regime", provoked a blunt but characteristic response from Mr R F (Pik) Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, on Tuesday night.

He questioned whether Angola's role in the joint monitoring commission, set up in Lusaka last month to monitor the disengagement of South African forces from southern Angola and to insure against breaches of the temporary ceasefire

agreement by guerrillas of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), any longer made sense.

The South African Press Association reported yesterday that it was known that the United States, South Africa's main sponsor in the Angolan initiative, was not happy with Mr Botha's strong response, and tried to persuade him to moderate his remarks.

Diplomatic sources here said that, although there had been a sharp rise in the level of rhetoric, they believed that the peace initiative was still on the rails. It was noted that Mr Botha had called for urgent clarification of the Angolan Government's position and it was felt that this could be achieved through new talks in Lusaka.

President Kaunda of Zambia,

who is acknowledged by both sides to be an able mediator, is being looked at to take the initiative, sources said.

In contrast to his anger over the tone of the communiqué, Mr Botha expressed South Africa's satisfaction "with the cooperative relationship which has thus far developed between the Angolan and South African components of the Joint Monitoring Commission (JMCF)".

The complete disengagement of both South African and Angolan forces from the Angolan-Namibia theatre as a preliminary to the implementation of the United Nations independence formula for Namibia is a far more complicated issue than the peace and good neighbourliness pact signed between South Africa and its Marxist eastern neighbour, Mozambique, last week.

ANC undaunted by peace pact

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The non-aggression pact between South Africa and Mozambique was a challenge, a "clarion call" to the opponents of apartheid, Mr Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress (ANC), said in London yesterday.

But he denied that the ANC, the main black nationalist

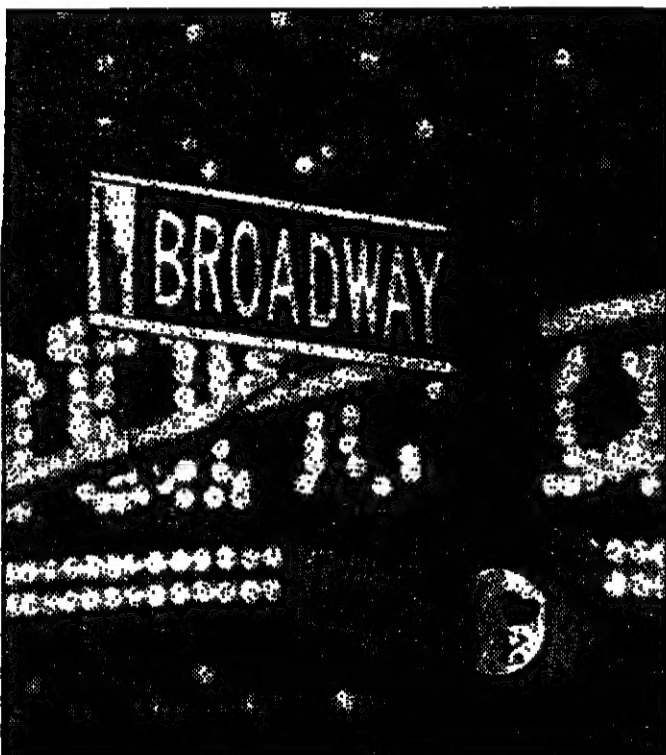
movement in South Africa, had been using Mozambique for launching attacks on the republic. "There has not been a single occasion on which we did so."

Mr Tambo, aged 66, was speaking at press conference at County Hall, London, with Mr Ken Livingstone, leader of the

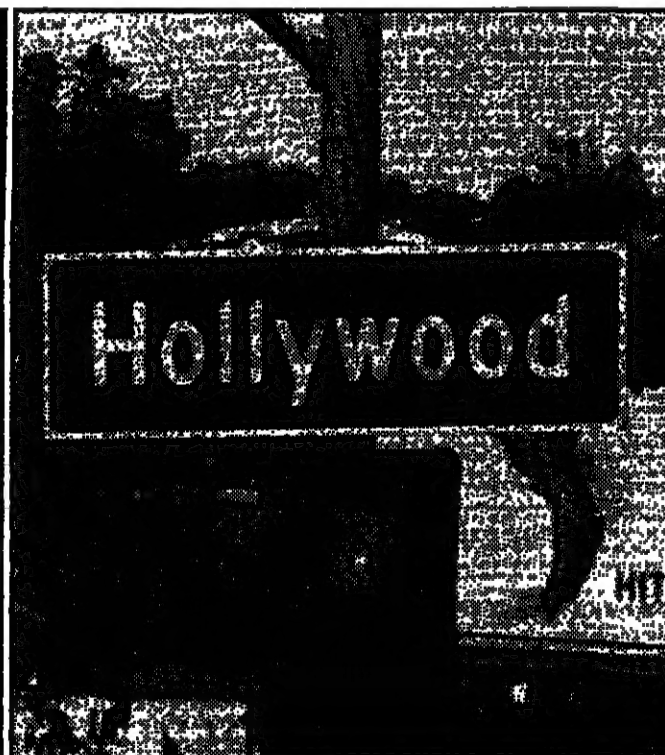
Greater London Council - whose guest he was - and other opponents of apartheid.

There was nothing in last week's agreement between South Africa and Mozambique to suggest that the ANC was about to be thrown out of Mozambique, Mr Tambo said.


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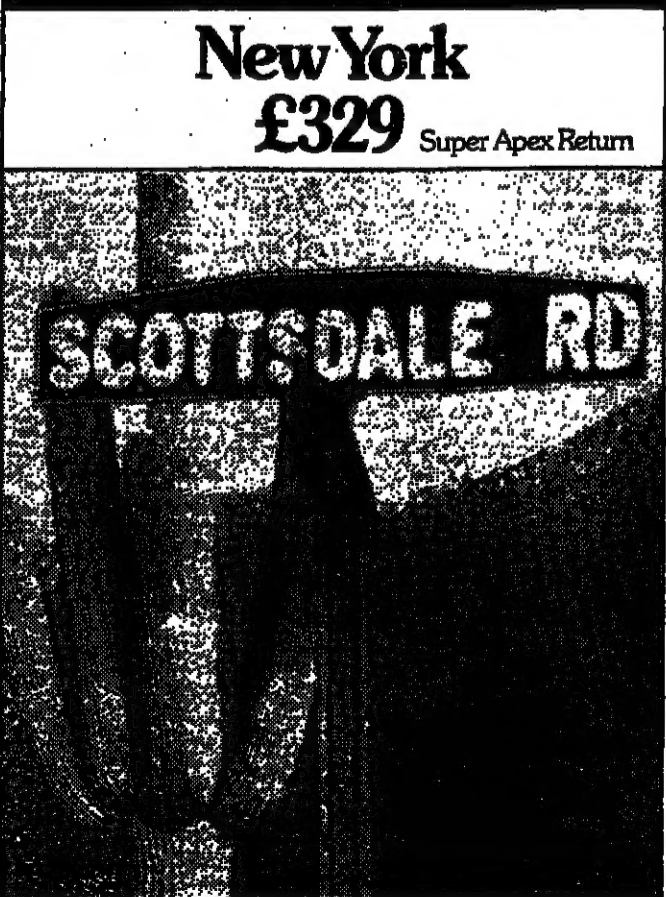
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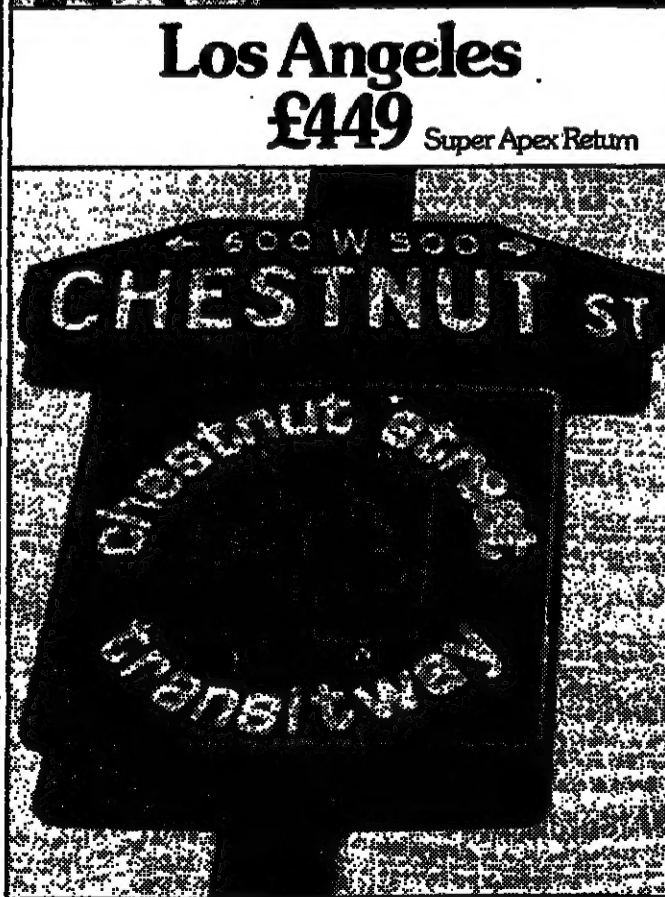
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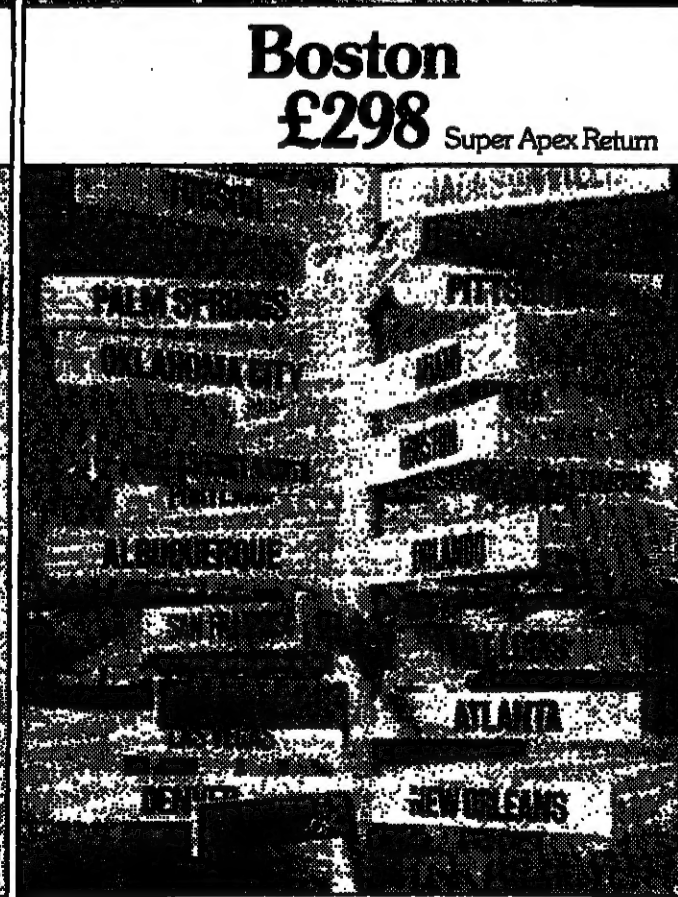
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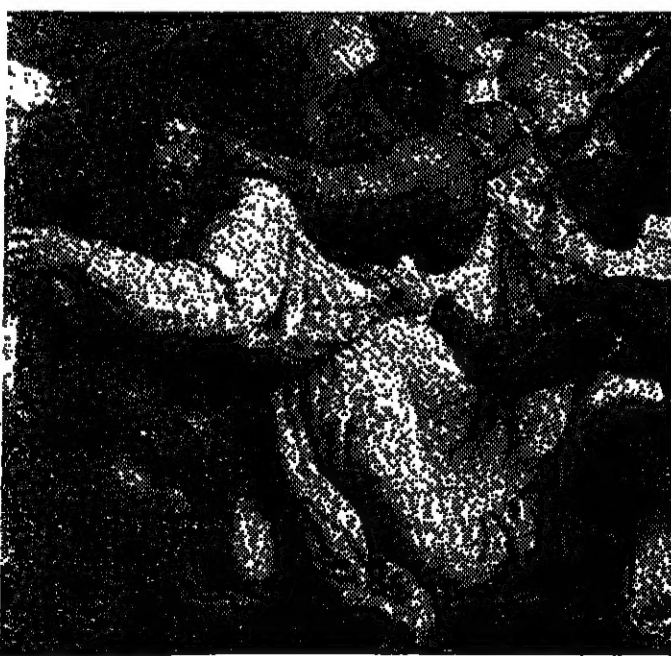
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A detail of Jacopo Bassano's "The Way to Calvary".

£300,000 grant helps to buy Venetian masterpiece

By Our Arts Correspondent

The National Gallery has bought one of the most famous works by the sixteenth century artist Jacopo Bassano, "The Way to Calvary", which was featured in the recent Genius of Venice exhibition at the Royal Academy.

The sale was negotiated with the trustees of the Earl of Bradford through Christie's. The painting has been in his family home at Weston Park for nearly two centuries.

He said yesterday that it had been necessary to sell the painting to raise money for capital transfer tax. "There is no more suitable place for the

painting to be displayed".

The treaty bars the publication of the sale price, but the purchase was aided by a grant of £300,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. It will go on show at the gallery today.

It was probably executed between 1545 and 1550, and helped to establish Bassano, with Tintoretto and Veronese, as one of the most influential of Venetian artists of the sixteenth century after Titian.

The painting formed part of the gift from the states of Holland to Charles II on his accession to the throne in 1660.

Barlinnie 'overcrowded'

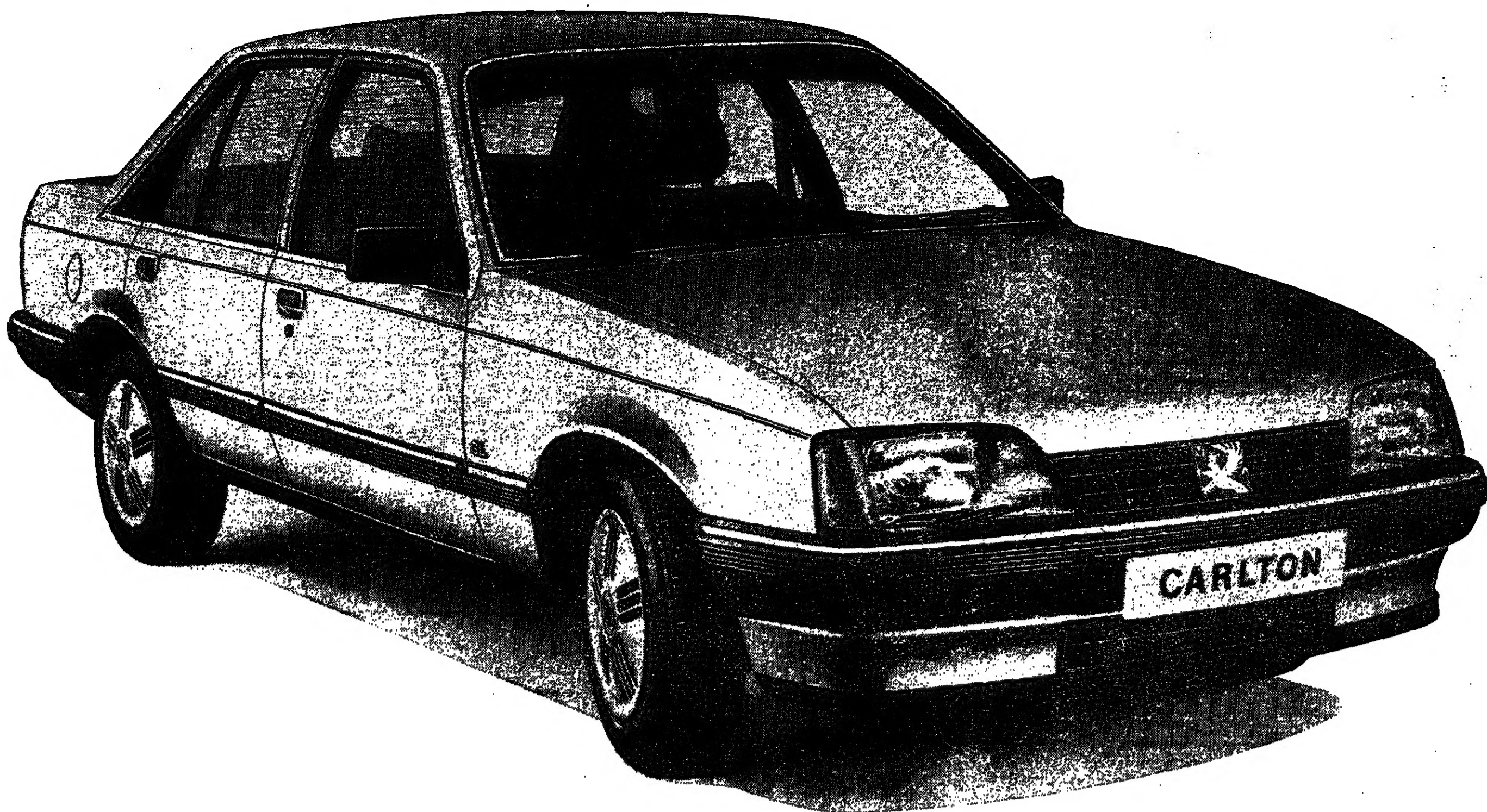
From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

Remand prisons at Barlinnie, Glasgow, are housed in overcrowded and unacceptable conditions, Mr Philip Barry, Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, said in a report yesterday.

Barlinnie, which is Scotland's largest prison, now has about 1,500 prisoners, of whom 680

are on remand pending trial or awaiting sentence.

That is a marked increase from the time when Mr Barry made his inspection and found inadequate facilities for recreation association and feeding as well as permanent overcrowding among the remand prisoners.



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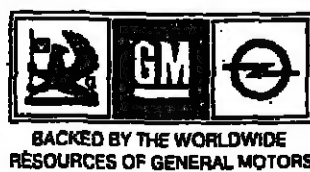
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Greece
Relief
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Entry

New

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Europeans united in condemning Mrs Thatcher for failure of Community summit

Budget gap narrowed to only £150m, but it was not enough for Britain

Britain was within £150m of being made an offer it could not refuse at the European summit, Mr Gaston Thorn, the president of the European Commission, confirmed yesterday.

But he added: "I think it is wrong to look just at the figures. The divergences are much greater than figures and everybody should realize that is the case."

He said he had told the summit that there had to be a system for resolving the budget dispute on a durable basis. "You can't go on going back to horse-trading year after year. But how unwilling some were to pick up the challenge, while recognizing there is no alternative to Europe. When you realize you have to tighten the purse strings, you realize it is essential to find a solution."

He was glad that his oft-repeated plea for a new conference to plan the EEC's future had been adopted by President Mitterrand after the summit. The French President had said that he felt there was a need for such a meeting of all those countries who wanted to work for Europe - and he hoped that meant all 10 of the present members.

It was a conference of this type that Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, suggested in a recent article, which was widely interpreted as proof of his conversion to support of the EEC.

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has made it clear that, whatever the philosophical argument, what she is interested in is the result - in other words a figure. On that basis she could well argue that the gap is closing significantly.

This is because France was able to put forward a proposal which could have given Britain a refund of £750m on a total contribution of £1,200m. This was less than the £900m rebate Mrs Thatcher initially said she wanted, but was probably very negotiable.

The trouble was that Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, said he could not afford to pay his full share of any rebate in excess of £600m. Mrs Thatcher was apparently very sympathetic to this. She recognizes that West Germany is the main payermaster of the Community and that Herr Kohl is facing a tough time imposing the austerity controls in his own country. Her view was that it was up to the other countries, none of whom, other than France, actually make any net payments to the Community, to fund the difference.

This attitude particularly infuriated Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister - even though his country's poverty makes it generally exempt from any such charges. It became clear that nobody was willing to pay for any rebate over and above the £600m mark, so Mrs Thatcher was offered that in a five-year

package. After all, it was argued, she had accepted £475m last year.

But Mrs Thatcher quickly saw this for nothing but another interim deal of the kind which had caused so much trouble in the past. She compromised by offering to accept the £600m for this year, providing that a new system giving the £750m could be guaranteed to be in place by 1986.

M. Mitterrand apparently asked which idea people preferred and only Mrs Thatcher liked her own one.

The nine-to-one situation has reawakened suggestions that either Britain should leave the Community or that a majority voting system should be introduced.

Observers felt that M. Mitterrand felt so frustrated by the way the argument was going that he would have liked to subject Mrs Thatcher to a vote, despite the fact that it was France, with the help of General de Gaulle, which won the right of veto originally.

It is nevertheless likely that as a result of the summit it will be more and more difficult for countries to "plead" vital national interest" in blocking Community decisions. M. Mitterrand confirmed that farm ministers will vote through, if necessary, next week's agricultural package.

Europe's odd woman out, page 12

Leading article, page 13

Greece 'Relief' if Britain left EEC

From Mario Modiano, Athens

What irritates the Greeks most about the failure of the Brussels summit, for which they put the blame squarely on Britain, is that Greece's own problems with the Community had been successfully dealt with just before the whole package collapsed.

This explains perhaps why the harshest comments about Britain's attitude came from Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, who said: "My feeling is that the other partners would be greatly relieved if Britain left the Community."

Mr Papandreu added: "We won our battle, but the Community lost its own." He was bitter about Mrs Margaret Thatcher. "She sacrificed the Community on the altar of the (European) election campaign," he said.

Italy: 'Homage to pig headedness' Press sees proof of UK estrangement

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Descriptions of Mrs Margaret Thatcher in Italy after the failure of the EEC summit are colourful. Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Foreign Minister, is quoted as comparing her to "a landlady dealing with a tenant who owes the rent."

Signor Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister, had already stated that she "bears the entire responsibility for the failure of the European Council". He added that he could not foresee another summit soon because the last one was simply once again in "homage to pig-headedness."

Little charity towards the British stand is shown in the Italian press. "Thatcher torpedoes Europe", is the main headline in the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica*.

The *Turin La Stampa* talks of "The shipwreck of Europe" and reports that all participants place the blame for the



'Landlady dealing with a bad tenant'

summits failure on Mrs Thatcher. The Milan newspaper *Corriere della Sera* talks of another European failure which is marked by "the British estrangement in Europe".

Spain: 'Process of integration will go on' Entry has been made more difficult

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain yesterday said it regretted the Brussels summit's failure to give "new and necessary stimulus" to the construction of Europe, while refusing to accept the delay in its entry negotiations.

After a Cabinet meeting to take stock, Señor Manuel Marín, the State Secretary for relations with the EEC, was told to go ahead and symbolically present Madrid's reply to EEC proposals on agriculture, one of the main elements of the

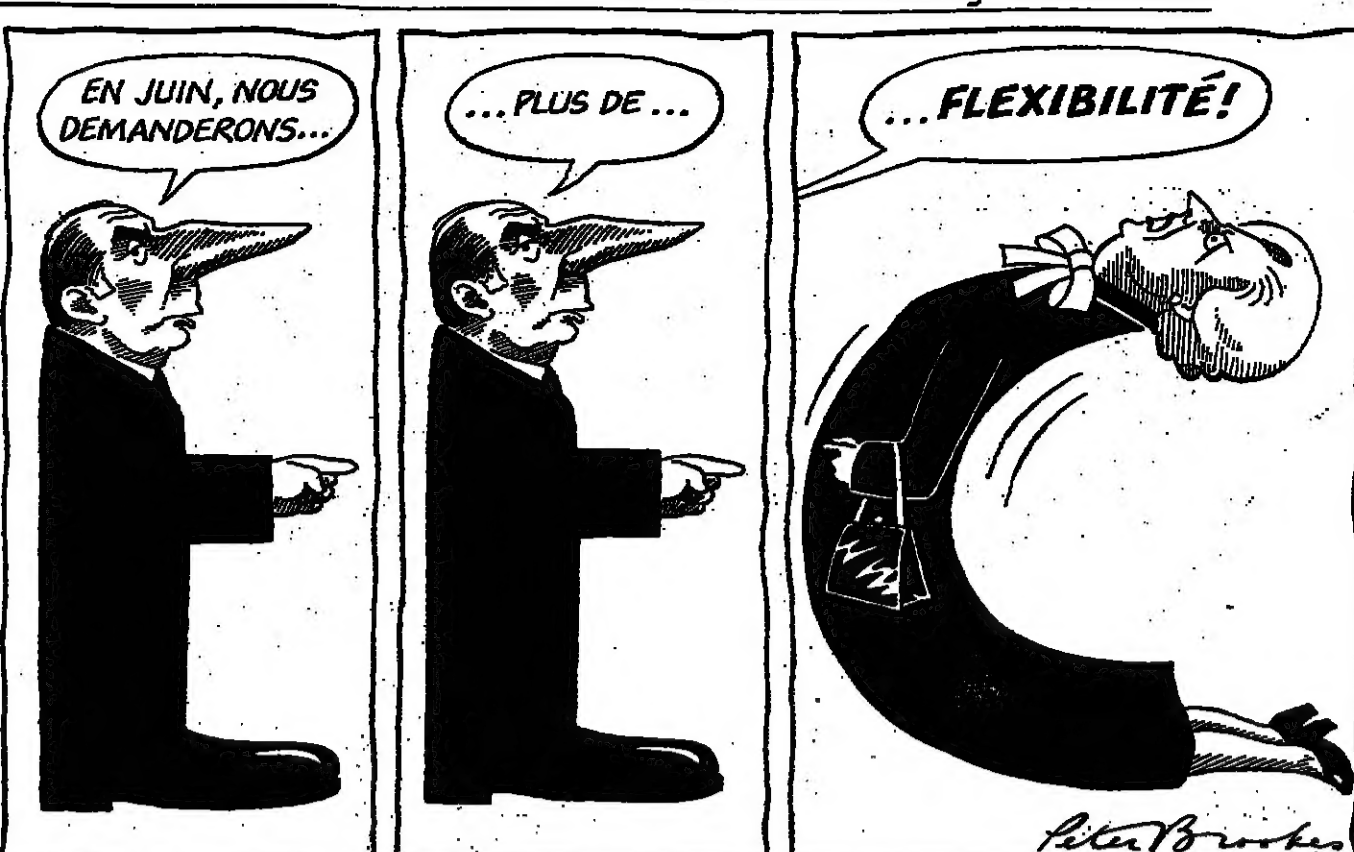
negotiating package, in Brussels. Both Señor Fernando Moran, the Spanish Foreign Minister and Dr Jaime Gama, his Portuguese counterpart, who was on a stopover here yesterday, underlined Tuesday's commitment by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and President Mitterrand on Spain and Portugal joining the EEC on January 1, 1986.

Señor Moran said the process of integration "will go on; no

one should be able to say Spain does not want to negotiate."

But, behind these words, Madrid realizes that the obstacles have grown, whereas the Brussels summit had been looked to as a badly needed stimulus to the final negotiating spurt.

All the Madrid dailies headlined on the Brussels *fracas* (failure), widely blaming Mrs Thatcher and accepting, uncritically, the French pitch about constructing Europe.



France: 'La Perfide Albion' in the dock

Ireland

Caution tempers condemnation Milk makes all the difference

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Kohl have already gone too far in the concessions offered to Mrs Thatcher, and for that reason, a "success" at Brussels might have actually resulted in a worse failure for Europe.

It is the farmers who have been the most outspoken in their condemnation of Britain. The failure of the summit showed that Britain did not want to make any effort towards Europe, said M. François Guillaume, president of the FNSEA, the largest farmers' federation.

Britain had not abided by the rules of the game, and must now suffer all the consequences, he said. "The British proposals are scandalous and exorbitant. Every year Britain repeats the same scenario of blackmail. Every sacrifice made by the Community has only led to further British demands."

However, the Socialist Party has tried to show that the summit was not a complete failure. M. Georges Sarre, the

party's national secretary, said that the united front of the Nine was not just against Britain, but for a number of constructive proposals for the relaunch of Europe.

"That is the outstanding result of the action taken by President Mitterrand over nearly three months. It is an achievement of French diplomacy which knew how to isolate Britain in its anti-communitarian stance and to gather together all the other member states."

"Failure at Brussels: The indomitable Mrs Thatcher", ran yesterday's headline in *Le Figaro*. "Thatcher breaks the bank" *Le Matin* proclaimed.

There is little attempt in the French press, radio or television to understand the British position. Only the left-wing daily, *Libération*, suggests that Britain has a fair case, and might actually have done Europe a good turn in insisting on radical budgetary reform.

West Germany: 'Negative and disappointing' Search still on, Genscher says

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

"Negative and disappointing" were the words used by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, to describe the failure of the Brussels summit. But he insisted Bonn would not give in to resignation, but would start immediately on the search for a solution to the questions still open.

Herr Genscher avoided any direct criticism of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, but made clear his Government's vexation at her tough stance. He told a press conference that London would do well to take note of the fact that the nine other Community members with very varying interests had in the end come together with a joint proposal to London for a compromise.

He said there was no question of isolating Britain, but creating conditions for a common solution and doing everything possible to safeguard the steps already taken.

The German Cabinet met yesterday morning to discuss what Herr Genscher called the "grave crisis in the Community". He had earlier telephoned M. Claude Cheysson, the

French Foreign Minister, and he publicly underlined Bonn's readiness to support President Mitterrand's efforts over the next few months to reach agreement.

Herr Genscher pointedly insisted that all the Community members had to recognize that the Community was not a "mutual insurance company", but a Community of common destiny to which the Germans, for one, saw no alternative.

The Germans have been



Reporting back: Chancellor Kohl and Herr Genscher

Uzbekistan quake leaves 100 injured

Moscow (AP) - More than 100 people were injured and an unspecified number left homeless in Gazli, Soviet Uzbekistan, during last Tuesday's major earthquake, Tass reported. The tremors cracked the town's hospital and residents rushed to evacuate patients.

The earthquake struck at about 1.30am, sending people into a state of panic. Electricity was knocked out and gas and water supplies interrupted.

An emergency team prevented a disaster at a gas pipeline compressor station when the power failed. Houses, kindergartens and schools were damaged. The injured were sent by bus to Bukhara for treatment and aid of tents and medicine began from Bukhara and Tashkent. Telephone lines to both these cities were down.

Jail for IRA gun runners

Le Havre (AP) - An Irish lorry driver Michael Christopher Macdonald, aged 26, of Dundalk and a French journalist Alain Fritel, aged 27, were sentenced to one-year prison terms on charges of transporting weapons believed destined for the IRA. Macdonald was also fined 61,666 francs (£5,300), the value of the weapons in his van. The two men had been in a Le Havre prison since their arrest last August after a search of the lorry revealed 28 handguns, 12,000 cartridges, 23lb of explosives, two grenades and 200 detonators.

Confession by US Jews

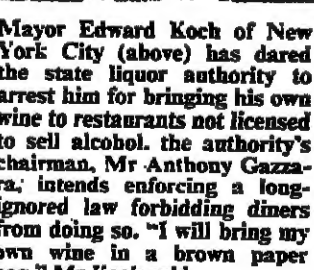
New York (Reuters) - A group of prominent American Jews has concluded that major US Jewish organizations did not do all they could to save victims of the Nazi extermination of the Jews. *The New York Times* said. Former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, chairman of the American Jewish Commission on the Holocaust, was quoted as saying: "Much as it hurts me to have to say it, it didn't do enough. Nobody did enough."

Yachts seized

Miami (AP) - Two American yachts and their crews, totalling 49 people, have been seized by the Cuban authorities for approaching too close to the island during a Miami-to-Jamaica race. The US Coast Guard said here.

Wine challenge

Mayor Edward Koch of New York City (above) has dared the state liquor authority to arrest him for bringing his own wine to restaurants not licensed to sell alcohol. The authority's chairman, Mr Anthony Gazzara, intends enforcing a long-ignored law forbidding diners from doing so. "I will bring my own wine in a brown paper bag," Mr Koch said.



Mayor Edward Koch of New York City (above) has dared the state liquor authority to arrest him for bringing his own wine to restaurants not licensed to sell alcohol.

New party to fight Israeli poll

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Election fever is growing in Israel as the Knesset prepares to vote today on five private members' Bills calling for its dissolution and early elections.

The Bills appeared to have mustered support for the preliminary vote today, but there were reports last night of behind-the-scenes moves by the ruling Likud coalition to torpedo the attempt. Mr Yitzhak Peretz, who has crossed the floor from the Likud to Labour, said he has been offered incentives to vote with the Government.

The Likud election committee is reported to have agreed that elections should be brought forward, but the parties could not agree on a date. They will continue discussions today. Proposals ranged from mid-May to November.

A big stir has been caused by Mr Ezer Weizman, the former Defence Minister, who dramatically announced on television last Tuesday night that he will contest the elections as head of

a new party. He said he will name his associates and explain his platform after the election date is set, but he made it clear the Likud Government's Lebanon adventure will be the central plank.

Mr Weizman, who quit Mr Manachem Begin's Government three years ago in a dispute over peace policy, rebuffed moderates who had been contemplating setting up a centrist block under his leadership. "Anyone who is a member of the Cabinet or a member of Parliament voted confidence in this government after what happened mainly in Lebanon... has no place on my list," he said.

The remark particularly offended Mr Yitzhak Berman, of the Likud, who resigned his cabinet seat in 1982 in protest against the Begin Government's delay in ordering an inquiry into the Phalangist massacre of Palestinians in Beirut refugee camps.

"I'm astounded," Mr Berman

said. "The man was silent for two years. He kept all options open, waiting for a telephone call... to join the Government and now he suddenly prescribes..."

A Labour party "dove," Mr Yossi Sarid, also attacked Mr Weizman, calling him a "housemaid's de Gaulle."

"He sat patiently for two years while 580 of our soldiers were killed before he opened his mouth. Now he has the gall to cast aspersions on someone like Mr Berman, who had the decency and courage to quit the Government over the Lebanese affair."

During his interview, Mr Weizman criticized his former party, saying Israel had never been as insecure and depressed as now, after seven years of Likud rule.

But, observers said, Likud had little reason to be disturbed. They said the new party will, rather, compete for votes with Labour and the planned centre grouping.

A ferry chartered by the French Navy has left Toulon for Cyprus and Beirut. There was also speculation in the French press that President Mitterrand would evacuate the 1,300-strong French contingent, the only remaining multinational peace-keeping force left in Beirut.

However, a high-ranking Lebanese Government official told reporters in Lausanne that the talks were likely to focus on the continuing presence of French troops in Beirut.

Leading article, page 13

Zambia gives Prince colourful welcome

From Michael Hornsby, Lusaka

The Prince of Wales arrived in Zambia yesterday to a 19-gun salute and a big, colourful crowd of local people and British expatriates.

There was a flutter of paper union jacks and Zambian flags, a burst of cheering and a thump of tribal drums as the Prince emerged from the aircraft on the second leg of his four-nation African tour.

He had flown in from Tanzania, where he began his tour last Monday. It is his first visit to Zambia. He will tour a sugar estate managed by the Commonwealth Development Corporation, of which he is a director, and make an excursion to the northern copperbelt.

Reagan abandons plan to sell Stingers to Arabs

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan, facing defeat in Congress, has abandoned proposals to sell Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan and Saudi Arabia, abruptly ending any early prospect of rekindling his moribund Middle East peace initiative of September, 1982.

The White House confirmed the decision yesterday. But in a trade-off with opponents of the missile deal there is now a good chance that Congress will approve the establishment of a US armed and equipped Jordanian strike force to protect

Spanish airport fire safety condemned

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spanish Government inspectors found that four of the 11 fire engines at Madrid's Barajas airport last year were not working and needed repair, and only one of the fleet was in full working order, a Ministry of Finance investigation has revealed.

The report, covering the years 1980-82, was made public yesterday. It covers safety standards and administration at all Spain's 33 airports, and underlines the need for reform highlighted by two disasters at Barajas last year, with the loss of more than 270 lives.

The investigation was ordered shortly before the Socialists came to power in 1982, and many of its recommendations are already being put into practice.

Allegations made by the inspectors include inadequate lighting and painting of the route markings on Barajas runways - raised by Spanish pilots after last December's collision between a Boeing 727 and a DC 9 - risks to aircraft turbines due to poor clearing of the runways, lack of practice in emergency procedures, and criticism of the age of both firemen and their equipment.

Spain's National Airports Authority, in a reply made public yesterday, referred to the studies of Barajas made last December, by the United States Federal Aviation Authority, and by a team from the International Association of

US-China pact

Peking (AFP) - China and the United States initiated a new tax treaty which was hailed by Mr Donald Regan as a "new level of sophistication" in economic cooperation. Mr Regan, the US treasury secretary, is visiting China. The treaty will be signed by President Regan here next month.

Kidnap foiled

Tokyo (AP) - The president of a big Japanese confectionery company, Mr Katsuhisa Ezaki, abducted from his home on Sunday night by three masked men who demanded 1bn yen (\$3m) in ransom, escaped unharmed.

Crew charged

Messina (AP) - Crew members of the London registered ship *Viking*, seized off Sicily on Saturday, were arrested yesterday on smuggling charges. Police said 27 submachine guns and 3,500 artillery shells had been found on board.

Killer shower

Harare (AFP) - A municipal worker sent to cut off power at a house in Gweru clipped the wrong wire, making the water pipes live. The occupant, defaulting on payments took a shower and was killed.

Correction

The Victoria Day holiday is not Canada's national day, as stated on March 12. National day is July 1.

The old-fashioned style proves good enough for Mondale in Illinois



The wheel of fortune has again swung in Mr. Walter Mondale's direction. His much-needed victory over Senator Gary Hart in the Illinois primary on Tuesday has not only restored to his presidential campaign some of the momentum lost by his early defeats at the hands of his upstart rival, but has also shown that old style coalition-building is still an essential part of Democratic politics.

The former Vice-President has regained the position of front runner as the see-sawing race for the Democratic Party nomination heads towards the next key primaries in Connecticut on March 27, New York on April 3 and Pennsylvania on April 10.

Mr. Hart, who squandered an earlier lead in the opinion polls with a series of campaign blunders in Illinois, has now been placed in the unenviable position of having to win at least one of the next set of primaries to regain momentum. If he loses all three, it would be extremely difficult for him to regain the lead, particularly as Mr. Mondale has won the support of almost twice as many of the delegates who will attend the party's nominating convention in San Francisco this summer.

However, the Rev Jesse Jackson, who achieved a tactical victory by running very strongly among Chicago blacks, could still help to tilt the balance either way.

"This is a three-way race all the way to the convention," he told celebrating supporters.

From Nicholas Ashford, Chicago

"The only way it will be a two-way race is if Mondale or Hart quits."

Mr. Jackson won more than 70 per cent of the black vote but fared badly among whites and Hispanics. His success among blacks was largely at Mr. Mondale's expense. If he had not been in the race, Mr. Mondale's defeat of Senator Hart would have been a rout.

But both Mr. Mondale and Mr. Jackson were helped by a heavy turnout in Chicago, the result of squabbling between the city's black Mayor and his white political rivals, who were also locked in crucial electoral contests on Tuesday.

Mr. Mondale won the Illinois primary the old-fashioned way by piling up a big margin in white working-class areas of Chicago, and then performing better than expected in the suburbs and down state. He also won a majority of the Hispanic vote and held on to those blacks who were not mesmerized by Mr. Jackson's vision of a "rainbow coalition".

With all but a few ballots counted, Mr. Mondale had won 41 per cent of the total to Mr. Hart's 36 per cent and Mr. Jackson's 20 per cent. Illinois was Mr. Mondale's third consecutive win in the Mid-West. He had already won caucuses in Iowa and Michigan.

Mr. Mondale also established a big early lead in the caucuses in his neighbouring home state of Minnesota on Tuesday. The full Minnesota tally will not be known until next week.

Although his win against Mr. Hart in Illinois was relatively narrow, he performed more strongly in the election of convention delegates, winning

97 to Senator Hart's 39. According to ABC news the former Vice-President now has a total of 648 delegates who will back his nomination at San Francisco, compared with 342 for Mr. Hart and 57 for Mr. Jackson.

There are also more than 300 uncommitted delegates who could swing either way.

Conceding defeat Mr. Hart attributed his loss to the heavy support Mr. Mondale got from organized labour and the Chicago Democratic "machine".

Mr. Hart has reason to be pleased with his own performance, given that he had come from nowhere to a strong second placing in less than four weeks. "We've been transformed from 'Mom and Pop' campaign to a national chain," he said. "That's a tremendous achievement."

The Illinois result has shown that the Colorado senator can attract widespread support in a heavily populated, industrialized Mid-Western state. But it also showed that "new ideas" and an army of enthusiastic young supporters cannot compensate for the sort of organization which Mr. Mondale has established over the past three years.

As one Mondale supporter wistfully commented: "The bloom is finally off this particular rose. Illinois has shown that many voters are concerned about Hart's policies and his personality."

A beaming Mr. Mondale told supporters that "Illinois has been a good win for us. But we've got a long, tough road ahead of us. Probably right through to the convention."

Green Berets turn up in Honduras

From Alan Tomlinson, Tegucigalpa

US troops from Panama have arrived in Honduras for unpublicized parachute exercises to coincide with the presidential elections in neighbouring El Salvador.

An Honduran military communiqué confirmed the arrival of an unspecified number, believed to be a battalion of Special Forces personnel, the American equivalent of the British SAS, from Southern Command headquarters near the Panama Canal.

The Green Berets, as they are known, are understood to have already carried out at least one parachute exercise north of the capital, Tegucigalpa, to improve their rapid deployment capacity in support of the Honduran Army. Similar manoeuvres are to continue until the end of next month when there is a second round of voting in El Salvador.

American officials in Honduras are saying nothing about these manoeuvres and are offering journalists no facilities

to observe them as they have done in the past.

When news of the exercises was first leaked in Washington, Pentagon sources said their objective was to put pressure on the anti-government guerrillas in El Salvador during the election period. Officials now appear to be playing down the significance of the timing and the numbers of United States troops involved.

Reports from Panama of 2,500 troops moving to Honduras and reports from Salvadoran rebel radio stations of United States forces mobilizing on the border appear to be unfounded.

Salvadoran guerrillas I spoke to on the other side of the border were clearly concerned at what they regard as a new threat. They would say nothing about what they were doing to meet it, other than to confirm that contingency plans against direct US intervention in the civil war were in hand.

Joint peace formula for Athens meeting

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The United States, as well as France - on behalf of the European Community - are both expected to put forward proposals on peaceful settlement of international disputes at the European Security and Cooperation Conference, which opened in Athens yesterday.

The meeting, which brings together 120 jurists and diplomats from 35 countries of Eastern and Western Europe, as well as the United States and Canada, is a sequel to the one held at Montreux in 1978 on the basis of the Helsinki Final Act. That meeting had considered a proposal by Switzerland, but ended inconclusively. The Swiss

plan is expected to be revived at the present meeting.

Addressing the opening session, Mr. Yiannis Kapsis, the Greek Foreign Under-Secretary, re-affirmed Greece's adherence to the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes and condemned "firmly and resolutely" any recourse to the threat or use of force.

He urged delegates not to lose sight of the fact that recourse to force by even the smallest nation might lead to confrontations the consequence of which could defy imagination, considering the rapid development of weapons.

Bullock carts amid space technology

From Michael Hamlyn, Sriharikota Island, India

This is India's Cape Canaveral and the similarities are striking. Both are narrow strips of land off the south-east coast of their respective land masses, separated from the mainland by a body of water crossed by a long causeway. The terrain is flat and marshy, the weather is hot and humid, subject to tropical storms. In place of the Florida alligators there are south Indian cobras and kraits.

At the John F. Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, however, the scale of the structures and the scope of the ideas are immense. So is the expenditure of money. At the Shri Centre in Andhra Pradesh, 100 miles north of Madras, the scale is small. The largest rocket that has ever been launched there was 74ft long. The total cash spent in the Indian space programme since its inception in 1962 has been around £350m. No launches are planned for this year.

Though the annual expenditure is increasing - it is now at around £65m a year - it represents only about a quarter of what Britain or Japan spend on space, and about a tenth of what France spends. But the commitment to space is strong. "We believe very firmly that no country can afford to ignore

high technology," says Professor Udipi Rao, director of the Indian Space Research Organization's satellite centre.

But the Indians are determined not simply to import black boxes from more developed countries; they are anxious to develop their own technology.

"Self-reliance has to be built into our programmes if we are to use high technology for the benefit of our people," Professor Rao insists.

Accordingly, the Homini series of sounding rockets used to examine the upper atmosphere for meteorological research, and the series of satellite launch vehicles that are to put Indian satellites into orbit, are developed in India by Indian scientists and engineers. The computers that record, control and communicate with the satellites are largely Indian made; the radar and radio systems are likewise mostly Indian.

The aims of the space programme include as well as meteorology the improvement of communications and the use of remote-sensing techniques which will enable the country to study, explore and better use the sub-continent's resources. The early part of the space

Mounting tensions in Central America



Trying again: Señor Duarte who was denied the presidency in 1972.

El Salvador's eternal optimist

From John Carlin, San Salvador

Señor Napoleón Duarte is the man everyone has to beat in Sunday's presidential election.

He personifies the majority among Salvadoran voters which apparently persists in the hope, despite setbacks, that change is possible without full scale civil war.

In the 1972 election, Señor Duarte, a Christian Democrat, was a sizable victory, but was defeated of the presidency. Arturo Armando Molina Baraza was imposed as President and Señor Duarte was arrested, beaten and tortured by the army. He was freed after a short time and forced into seven years' exile in Venezuela.

His political platform was the same in 1972 as it is now. He sought, and seeks, fundamental change in a society he considers to be grossly unjust, the history of which is one of division, as he puts it, "between those who have had all and those who have had nothing".

The guerrilla movement, locked in a four-and-a-half year war against the American-backed government, was born immediately after and as a direct response to the fraudulent elections of 1972.

Days after Señor Duarte was arrested, two young men with pistols shot dead two National Guardsmen, seized their rifles and set off a chain of events which, nourished by political disillusion and government atrocities, led to the formation

of a guerrilla force now numbering more than 10,000.

But Señor Duarte's political dream - some would say his personal ambition - got the better of his resentment. He returned to El Salvador in 1979, joined the military-civilian junta in March 1980 and in November of that year became the country's *de facto* President, the first civilian to hold the post in 50 years.

During the 16 months that Señor Duarte headed the junta, the few token reforms he managed to push through were made irrelevant by thousands of political killings and an intensification of the civil war.

Nevertheless, it was a measure of the political options available in the 1982 constitutional assembly election, as it is now, that Señor Duarte was the only serious contender offering both reform and a peaceful resolution of the country's problems.

On that platform the Christian Democrats won the 1982 elections, with 40 per cent of the vote, but lost power to a right-wing coalition led by Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, who became President of the Parliament.

Señor Duarte's apologists say he was made powerless by the military during the calamitous 16 months he held office. "When he was now it will be different," the Christian Democrat secretary, General José

Morales Erlich, says. "The Army has moved with the times: it's become more apolitical and, anyway, Duarte will become the armed forces' Commander-in-Chief."

This probably wishful solution is favoured by the leaders of El Salvador's 500,000 members trade union organization the Popular Democratic Union. It has signed a "social pact" with Señor Duarte, whereby he guarantees members top positions in a future government. In exchange, they have been campaigning for the Christian Democrats, urging members to go to Duarte rallies.

Señor Duarte was born on November 23, 1925. He has been in politics for 23 years. He was elected Mayor of San Salvador on three consecutive occasions from 1964 to 1970 and won popularity for his welfare schemes.

"I want to be president of the poor," he said at a rally. "I want to be the country's first elected civilian president. I want to be the president of peace."

He wants "negotiations with all," suggesting he may hold peace talks with the guerrillas if he wins power. Such a stance terrifies the right that he will bow to such "communist" demands as a cleansing of the army and the carrying out of far-reaching social reforms.

Rebels reverse poll tactics

From Our Correspondent, San Salvador

The guerrillas are putting out confusing signals with the presidential elections in El Salvador just three days away, suggesting a lack of cohesion in the rebel high command. What is clear, though, is that, contrary to their previously stated intentions, the guerrillas are disrupting the electoral process.

Yesterday the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), and its political wing, the Revolutionary Democratic Front (RDR), released a document in San Salvador in which they said: "In the areas under the control of the FMLN and in areas in dispute the word to the population is: 'Don't vote.'"

This overturns stated rebel policy since the beginning of the year. As early as last week the mayor and citizens of the rebel-controlled northern town of La Palma, for example, were fully convinced that the guerrillas would let them vote.

Now it appears that there will be no voting in La Palma and the other 69 municipalities out of a national total of 261 which the rebels say they control.

What is confusing about the rebels' intentions, however, is that they are urging people in the government-controlled majority of the country to go out and vote if they are forced to do so, as otherwise they might feel that "their safety is threatened".

While evidently aware of the kind of pressures being put on people to vote, the guerrillas are currently intensifying the campaign, begun on Saturday, of taking thousands of identity cards away from people in various parts of the country, without identity cards one

cannot legally vote in El Salvador. Furthermore, it is dangerous not to have one.

"If the Army stops me and I don't have my identity card, they'll pull me aside and shoot me," said a man on the Pan-American Highway last weekend, expressing a widely-felt fear among a crowd of hundreds just robbed of their cards by guerrillas.

The FMLN-FDR insist on saying that they do not consider the electoral process "a military objective". But, besides taking away identity cards at gunpoint, they are threatening to burn vehicles they see on main roads in the east of the country. Traffic as a result has slowed down to a trickle there.

The guerrillas clearly intend to limit the flow of traffic severely to hamper the smooth running of the elections.

The sources say the CIA funding has now been resumed.

● MOSCOW: The Russians yesterday reacted angrily to the damaging of the Soviet tanker in Nicaragua delivering a protest to the US Embassy (Richard Owen writes).

Tass quoted the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry as pinning the blame for the explosion, in which five Soviet seamen were injured, on "mercenaries in the service of the United States". It said that, despite injuries to the tanker crew and a hole torn in the ship's side, the tanker's oil had been discharged normally. The hole had been patched up.

The "criminal attack" on the Lugansk was one of several "subversive acts" carried out by bandits supporting the former Somoza dictatorship, and was part of an American attempt to blockade Nicaragua, Tass said.

Soviet ship mined by CIA-backed commandos

From Martha Honey, San José, Costa Rica

A special anti-sandinista commando unit, trained and equipped by the CIA and operating out of El Salvador, has been responsible for mining Nicaragua's main ports. A Soviet tanker which was damaged on Tuesday by a mine explosion in Puerto Sandino became the fifth ship damaged in the last month in Nicaragua's three main ports.

According to sources within the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (Arde), "a special commando unit directed by an American" carried out the mining of the Nicaraguan ports of Sandino, Corinto and El Bluff.

The sources said that the Salvadorean Government provided facilities and imported the equipment, including boats and mines, for the operation. According to one Arde official, "these are not the sort of things we can buy on the black market, so we had to get them through a legitimate government".

Señor Alfonso Robelo, one of Arde's directors and the organization's chief contact with the CIA, has for several months had guerrillas operating out of a base on the gulf of Fonseca, in El Salvador, near the border with Honduras, the Arde sources added. It seems likely that the Arde commandos who carried out the mining were trained and launched from this base.

Last year Arde, which uses Costa Rica as its rear base and fights mainly in southern Nicaragua, carried out a series of aerial bombardments against Nicaragua's international airport and the port of Corinto. According to Arde sources the light planes used in the attacks were outfitted and departed from Ilopango Air Force base, outside San Salvador. The raids were directed by the CIA.

Last month the Honduras-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) claimed responsibility for two aerial attacks against Nicaraguan communications centre. The New York Times quoted US officials as saying that the attack was "permitted" by the CIA and originated from Ilopango.

The CIA has been pressing Arde and the FDN to coordinate their operations, but so far no accord has been reached. Arde has a small unit in Honduras, but Arde sources say that last month FDN leaders, wanting to keep Honduras exclusively for their operations, ordered the Hondurans to arrest 10 Arde commanders and disarm the 70 guerrillas. Since then no further unity talks have taken place.

Arde sources say they have also been under CIA pressure to disrupt Nicaragua's imports of military equipment, oil and other supplies. At one point several months ago the CIA cut off funding to Arde after its commander, Señor Edén Pastora, balked at carrying out one CIA-designed operation to stop arms shipments through El Bluff.

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Tass quoted the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry as pinning the blame for the explosion, in which five Soviet seamen were injured, on "mercenaries in the service of the United States". It said that, despite injuries to the tanker crew and a hole torn in the ship's side, the tanker's oil had been discharged normally. The hole had been patched up.

The "criminal attack" on the Lugansk was one of several "subversive acts" carried out by bandits supporting the former Somoza dictatorship, and was part of an American attempt to blockade Nicaragua, Tass said.

This collective advantage in the election of delegates can be expected to continue because no more than 60 per cent of them will be chosen by means open to all Democratic voters in primaries or caucuses. The remainder will be party and elected officials, or delegates at large, selected by state party committees, with whom Mr. Mondale has much closer connections than Senator Hart.

This does not mean that Mr. Mondale can be confident of the nomination whatever happens in the remaining primaries. Delegate commitments are not legally binding and the party would not thwart a clear preference among the voters. But it does mean that Mr. Mondale would be better placed in a close fight and that Senator Hart needs a clear lead in the primaries in order to shake loose the delegates committed or inclining towards Mr. Mondale.

So Illinois has offered Mr. Mondale a double hope. It may have defeated the Hart campaign. If not, it has made it more likely that the contest will be close all the way to San Francisco.

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

Chicago

Mr. Walter Mondale has won a very necessary victory in the Illinois primary. He needed to blunt the thrust of Senator Hart's campaign before it could gain any further momentum, and it would have been a blow to him if he could not win in such a state as Illinois.

It is the largest state to have held its primary so far this year. And it is one which is peculiarly suited to his political strengths, with a large and highly organized trade union movement and a strong party organization. If the endorsement of the trade unions and the support of the party regulars could not be decisive in Illinois, where could they be? But Mr. Mondale may have done more than simply achieve the success required of him in this primary. Senator Hart's campaign depends on maintaining the pace of his assault. It has been fascinating these last few days in Chicago to see the contrast between the Mondale and Hart headquarters.

The Mondale camp was quieter and calmer. There were the signs of careful preparation. In the Hart rooms all was bustle and confusion. Young people in their early 20s were learning their responsibilities as they went along, with an engaging, open frankness about their inexperience. The whole effort was put together at the last minute.

Senator Hart's appeal to the voters also depends upon the sense of excitement that his campaign has conveyed, sweeping them along in its headlong rush. Where Mr. Mondale has offered experience, Senator Hart has had momentum. He has been a political hand-glider, soaring into the sky without evident means of support. But destroy the confidence, puncture the enthusiasm, lose the momentum and the Hart campaign might subside as suddenly as it rose to prominence.

All political campaigns thrive on success, but the Hart campaign depends on it to an unusual degree. It was born of success. Before it succeeded, relatively in Iowa and absolutely in New Hampshire, most Americans were barely aware that it existed.

The question now is whether the rebuff in Illinois will have taken the edge off Senator Hart's challenge in the key primaries that are coming up in New York and Pennsylvania.

His campaign faces a critical psychological test. He needs another victory, quickly, not only for psychological reasons but also because of the complexity of the nominating process in the Democratic Party. There were two separate votes in the Illinois presidential primary. The one that has attracted most attention is what is known as the beauty contest: the preference expressed by delegates across the state as to who the Democratic candidate should be. The other was the election, district by district, of delegates to the convention in San Francisco in July.

Because of his superior organization, Mr. Mondale has been doing much better in the struggle for delegates than in the beauty contests. Even before Illinois went to the polls on Tuesday he had a lead of more than 200 among the thousand delegates who had been chosen by them.

This relative advantage in the collection of delegates can be expected to continue because no more than 60 per cent of them will be chosen by means open to all Democratic voters in primaries or caucuses. The remainder will be party and elected officials, or delegates at large, selected by state party committees, with whom Mr. Mondale has much closer connections than Senator Hart.

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Tropical cruise for the Leningrad

US plane buzzes Russian carrier in Caribbean

Jacksonville, Florida (AP) - A Soviet helicopter carrier and an advanced guided-missile destroyer steamed toward Cuba on Tuesday in what the Pentagon said was a show of concern over the Caribbean.

Soviet crew on board the carrier Leningrad waved at a US Navy submarine surveillance plane carrying reporters as it passed about a dozen times within 1,000 feet of the ship. Civilian and military pho-

tographers took pictures of the 20,000-ton Leningrad, led by the 8,000-ton, guided-missile destroyer Udaloy and followed by a cargo-oiler vessel, the Ivan Bubnov, 600 miles east of Florida and 117 miles north-east of Grand Turk Island in the Bahamas.

The Leningrad, the biggest Soviet ship to operate in the Caribbean since Moscow began sending naval units on periodic visits to the region in 1969.

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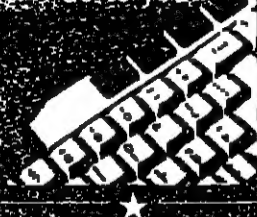
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THE ART AND SOUL OF LONDON

Commentary
Geoffrey Smith



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SPECTRUM

First knight of the theatre

The Times Profile:
Sir John Gielgud at 80

Meditating in his bath this spring morning, Sir John Gielgud scans the Buckinghamshire sky. Hunched on the sill above him is the Oscar he won for his performance as Dudley Moore's tart-tongued butler in the film *Arthur*. It stands there by right; the bathroom is where Gielgud keeps all his trophies. But it does not altogether enhance the view. "All my life I've wanted to lie in my bath and see the sky. But now the Oscar's there, I don't really mind it, but I think that the giving of awards is terribly invidious. I dislike the assumption that some people are better than others. I hate being put up against my contemporaries. All those terrible arguments! All those questions! What do you think of Olivier and what does he think of you? It's all such rubbish."

Gielgud at 80 - his birthday falls on April 14 - has the pink, unfurrowed face of a wise child. Baldness apart (his scalp seems to flow from the tip of his nose to the nape of his neck) he still resembles the boyhood photograph that shows him swathed in a toga as Mark Antony in a production of *Julius Caesar* at Hillside School, Godalming. Then as now he displays the classic matinee idol's profile which has steered him through sixty-odd years in the theatre, an extraordinary span which runs from *The Insect Play* in 1923 in which Gielgud appeared as The Poet Butterfly ("We were frightfully light-minded creatures, having affairs, drinking cocktails and so on") to the bleakness of Pinter's *No Man's Land* in which he starred with Ralph Richardson in the late 1970s.

He shows few signs of wear and tear. He treads warily, an old response perhaps to the complaint of his first drama teacher - the acerbic Lady Constance Benson - who told him that he walked like a cat with rickets. But his back is ramrod straight.

He sleeps well and he has a good appetite, salting each mouthful with gossip as genial as it is indiscreet. There's no malice in the man. "He simply talks faster than he can censor," suggests his friend, the actress Irene Worth.

Ronald Harwood, the author of a Gielgud biography, recalls how only one of 26 people he consulted in a first round of research into the actor's life was remotely hostile. "He's held in great general affection," says Alan Bennett who acted with Gielgud in his own play, *Forty Years On*. Peggy Ashcroft said: "His charm and charisma have never flagged and who knows what he may have up his sleeve for us yet."

There are few octogenarians who are so manifestly still a going concern, but with Gielgud the question of retirement is unthinkable. Acting is his life. Work, what ever form it takes - from Shakespeare to Coward, from Albee to an instalment of *Tales of the Unexpected* - is what keeps his heart pumping. When we met for lunch it was at a restaurant whose wine list hails mainly from California. "Excellent stuff," pronounced Gielgud. "I've been making TV commercials for them for the past three years. There's a clause in the contract which says they can't be shown here. But they're filmed in London and they've flown over all sorts of actors, even an entire baseball team to appear with me." Also, he adds, they pay him a great deal of money. It is an aside he frequently makes, often with surprise and always with a kind of glee.

In fact, Gielgud is keenly aware of the lustre his name lends to any product or production, however unlikely. "I was recently offered an enormous sum to play in a film called *Space Vampires* and I nearly fell for it

because it would have been nice to have had the money. But the next time I heard from them the figure had somehow been reduced by half, so I said no.

"I'm in two minds about doing this sort of thing. *Arthur* was an extraordinary success and gave me a new, young public which had never seen me on the stage. But then I made another film of the same kind called *Scandals* which was a terrific flop in America, a total disaster. If you play too many cameos people begin to think you're in every film that comes up and they get sick of you. I would like to do just really good parts. And yet cameos are so much less of a responsibility. I've only been really proud of two things I've done in the last few years. One was *Providence*, the film I made with Alan Resnais and the other was *Brideshead*. It was a small part, but effective."

Gielgud's belated attention to his earnings began when his accountant died and he learned that, because of muddled book-keeping, he owed £70,000 in back taxes. Unlike many of his contemporaries he had either been disallowed or was disinclined to invest in show business ventures (commercial television is one that he mentions with regret) and there was a pressing need to haul himself out of the red. Now the emergency is over, but the habit of work remains. "It really is my life," he says. "I'm paid to go and perform in wonderful places all over the world. What could be better? I don't even need to take holidays any more."

'I find London so disagreeable now... the romance has gone'

His life changed significantly in 1974 when he decided to move to the country. "I don't quite know what made me do it. I just felt so disillusioned with London. I'd never really lived in the country before, although I had a weekend cottage in Essex before the war, and I thought it would be good for me to try. The house I wanted to buy was rather grand - it's seventeenth century, with quite a large garden - and I couldn't afford a place in town as well. So I simply sold up and moved. The truth is that I find London so disagreeable now. It's full of ghosts. Every street I walk down is where someone I knew lived or died or where I had a lover."

"And every place I knew has either been torn down or rebuilt. It used to be so romantic and now the romance has gone."

In the old days, he says, his socializing was prodigious. "I was a keen dancer. We used to go and fox-trot at all those little clubs. Fabia Drake, one of those wonderful old girls in the *Jewel in the Crown*, was my partner. But I never took any lessons. I just used to look at myself in the glass all the time. I thought I was awfully good." He also dined out a great deal. But now, he says, when he's not working he stays at home. "I have an enormous range of acquaintances, but very few intimate friends; twelve at the most. I see them if I want to. But I shun parties. I shun gatherings and public dinners, all that stuff I used to enjoy so much."

In Buckinghamshire he shares his house with a companion. "He's a very handy chap who arranges things like decorating and so on. I could never live entirely alone. I don't look for any kind of social life. I just walk around, pick up a few weeds and light bonfires. But I don't think I'm really equipped



for living in the country. I can't drive a car. I can't shoot, or fish, or play cards. I have no inclination to ride (Gielgud's distaste for horses began when one fell on him during the filming of *Julius Caesar*). I don't think you could describe me as capable."

His impracticality is far-reaching. John Mortimer tells how he and his wife went to dinner at a house where Gielgud was a guest. Their young daughter had been put to sleep in a spare bedroom and creeping out with her in a carry-cot they met Gielgud who peered under the pink plastic hood and enquired: "Why on earth do you bring your baby with you? Is it because you're afraid of burglars?"

He has never wanted children of his own. "Funnily enough, I don't miss them. I suppose I dread the responsibility of having them."

"But I know that some people respond magnificently. I remember at the memorial service for Ingrid Bergman, how Josh Ackland came along and read something. And he was on his way to his son's funeral. That was quite marvellous."

He's lucky, he says, to have been born with a happy disposition. "Of course I have fits of gloom occasionally, chiefly about the illness or the deaths of friends. And because I have become such an addict of TV I watch

the newscasts and I'm now much more aware of the miseries of the world. I used to rise above all that. Even in two world wars I was so busy all the time that I wasn't really aware of the way people had to live. I'm not really much of a Christian. I just suppose there's Somebody Up There who knows what's going on. People tell me that faith is essential and I've always been surprised that I've been able to do without it. I had one terrific crisis in my life and I thought, well, I suppose I should either pray or commit suicide. But in the end I didn't do either."

'I hate being put up against my contemporaries. It's such rubbish'

Not many people say no to Gielgud. He is a superb director who asks and usually gets remarkable results from his casts, not by laying down the law but by peppering everyone within reach with a fine buckshot of hints and hopes. "Harley Granville Barker was the director I most admired. He had absolute authority, like Toscanini. But my style has always been suggestion. I don't do my homework very well. I rush in where angels fear to tread."

"But I think I made my rehearsals quite amusing. Just as Tyrone Guthrie did. The stunt that some directors have now of coming to do exercises and play games with you to know you better wastes an awful lot of time."

Among modern directors, Gielgud most admires Peter Brook: "He's a real genius. And Lindsay Anderson is immensely talented, too. But I'm not very happy working at the National. The atmosphere's cold, like an airport."

Gielgud's working friendships have survived even a sustained downfall of the bricks he's famous for dropping. There was the time when he was directing a production of *The Trojans* ("I don't read music, but I have a very good ear") and found difficulty both in starting and stopping the orchestra and chorus. Unable to hear the counsel of some colleague he rushed towards the expensive operatic babel shouting: "Stop! Stop! Oh do stop that dreadful music!"

On another occasion when Emyln Williams was performing his one-man Dylan Thomas show he asked Gielgud whether he had ever considered doing a similar Shakespearean anthology. "Oh, I don't know," said Gielgud, blithely disregarding the implications. "I think one should keep those one-man shows for one's old age."

He describes a meeting with John Christie, the founder of Glyndebourne, during which the great man flung himself on to a couch to listen to Malcolm Sargent playing the piano. "He kicked off his shoes and two enormous Dr Scholl supports flew across the room."

Even more incongruously he remembers an Edinburgh Festival at which Otto Klemperer, a frail and supposedly puritanical old man, was found to be missing when a taxi called to take him to his concert at the Usher Hall. "The city was combed to find him and he was discovered sitting on a shooting stick outside a girl's school which, for some reason, had a red light over the door. Apparently, he thought it was a brothel."

He regrets that he was not invited to play the name part in the forthcoming TV film of Graham Greene's *Dr Fischer of Geneva* ("Although I'm certain that James Mason will be wonderful"). And he would dearly love to make a film of *The Tempest* with himself as the definitive Prospero: "It's one thing I would like to leave behind, as it were."

His birthday celebrations are largely in the hands of others. The Garrick will be giving him a party and a starry collection of friends and colleagues have contributed to a book called *The Ages of Gielgud* which Hodder & Stoughton are publishing as a birthday tribute. "It's a little embarrassing," murmurs Gielgud. "But on the other hand, it's pleasant to have nice things said about you while you are still alive." He can't imagine who'll buy the thing, but he hopes the publishers won't lose. "It would be nice," says Sir John, "if they made a few bob out of it."

Philip Oakes
Photograph by Snowden

moreover...
Miles Kington

Packaging
for a
president

"I'm switching to Hart from Mondale. I think Hart has got more electability."

Thus a Democrat voter last week. But what did he mean by "electability"?

He meant, I think, that Hart had more chance of winning than Mondale. If Hart were the Democratic candidate, he would get more votes than Mondale would, and perhaps even than Reagan would.

To put it another way, Hart seems the better product. His packaging and image are more likely to appeal to the consumer, especially those who wish to switch to another brand, having tried Reagan for four years and not got the results they wanted.

The advantages of this are obvious. If Gary Hart is really the man most likely to win, then it's worth putting him forward as candidate; in eight months' time he may well turn out to be the presidential runner preferred by most voters.

The disadvantages are equally obvious: America would then have to put up with Gary Hart as president for four years.

The great flaw in the American presidential electoral system is that the man with most electability also has to be the man with most power, and the one does not necessarily lead to the other. All that an American election proves is who is the best candidate.

It says nothing about who is the best president. There is no guarantee whatsoever that a good candidate will make a good leader.

If anything, the evidence points the other way. A good candidate is one who grows more and more popular until the day he wins. A good president grows less and less popular until the day he loses power. A good president must do what he thinks right. A good candidate must say what he thinks will go down well.

A good candidate does not have to win one vote from a non-American. A good president has to win the trust and respect of the rest of the world. A candidate has to make promises; a president has to explain why he cannot make promises. A candidate is a good advertising campaign; a president is a product which has gone through four years of *Which?* magazine tests.

The conclusion is inescapable. The winning candidate should not become president.

This presents certain problems, notably insofar as the winning candidate may feel that after so much work he should reap some reward. And one solution might be: that the successful candidate, instead of entering the White House, should nominate the man to be next president, on condition he did not name a relation or close friend. This could pave the way to the presidency of someone like Teddy Kennedy, who otherwise does not have electability.

Alternatively, the candidate could be given some experience of power before election, to see how he would make out as a president. Presidents don't get much done in election year. They are too worried about the election. So why not give the candidates a month or two each running the country in the election run-up, to see how they react to the stress of office? It may be possible to arrange with the Russians to provide a small nuclear crisis for each man.

This new approach also alters the whole concept of the identity of the first lady. Until now it has been assumed that she will be married to the president, whereas it seems highly unlikely that the man best fitted to the White House will bring a wife who is also the best suited. Much better, surely, to have her nominated separately, or even voted for in separate elections, so that the decor of the White House and the nature of its dinner parties could have been put to the electorate beforehand.

And if being president involves considerable unpopularity and pressure from the majority, as it surely does, then there is also the not totally far-fetched idea of putting into the White House the man who came second in the presidential election.

All these ideas bear thinking about. If nothing else, they are more fun than following the election in its present form.

(A public service pamphlet issued by the *Moreover Think Tank*.)

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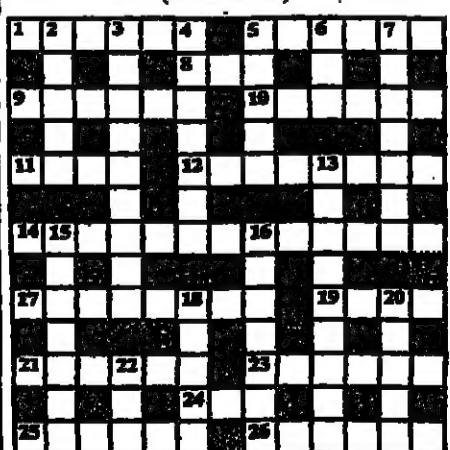
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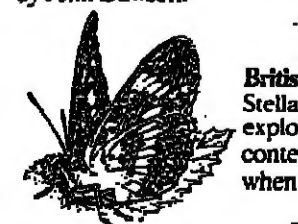
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BOOKS

A. S. Byatt and Stuart Evans review fiction.

Academic and other Romances

Small World
By David Lodge

(Secker & Warburg, £8.95)
Also Merlin made the Round Table in tokening of the roundness of the world... for all the world, Christian and heathen, repair to the Round Table. (Malory). In *Small World*, a host of itinerant academics repair to the international conference tables, flying from Tokyo to Zurich, Jerusalem to California to Honolulu, discussing Joyce, Hardy and semiotics, jousting over rival critical theories, looking for love or release or renown, all the things human beings have perennially looked for. Marshall McLuhan announced to us that we now live in a Global Village, and Lodge's small world, with its satellite communications, its translations of books and professors from one culture to another, is a shrewd and hilarious paradigm of this too.

Philip Swallow and Morris Zapp, the exchanging professors of *Changing Places* reappear, as do other academics from that book. The young hero, Perse McGarrigle, is an Irish poet and academic who falls in love with the delightful literary theorist, Angelica Pabst, pursuing her round the globe with the aid of a literary prize and an American Express Card rather than a hippogriff, always just missing her, or glimpsing and losing her, as happens in the best Romantic, ancient or modern, Perse is Sir Percival and also Perseus, seeking to release Andromeda from chains. Angelica is Ariosto's vanishing heroine, but also one of the miraculously born

twin heroines of the *Faerie Queene*, the chaste Belphebe, the loving Amoret. She has breasts described with lines from Keats and Coleridge or deployed on sleazy placards: she is seen in strip clubs and red light districts as well as in solemn gatherings, to the anguish of the virginal Perse. Other characters are double or doubled. Philip Swallow deceives his wife Hilary for a woman with the same name, Joy, and the same blue dressing gown. There is more than one P. McGarrigle.

There are other analogues of an older world. A rich Marxist Italian enchantress called Fulvia Morgana gets her nails into Morris Zapp and chains him up. There is a Giron lady don, Miss Sybil Maiden, pupil of Jessie Weston (*From Ritual to Romance*) who manifests herself in Rummidge, Zurich, Honolulu and Delphi, where she utters a mysterious prophecy from a shooting stick.

It would be more than usually unfair to reveal any details of the ingenious and proliferate plotting. There is a new coincidence, a new diatribe over every page. It is possible to comment on the local delights of the prose, the contrast between the polyglot chatter of the global village and the clichés of High Romance. Consider "Durex, Farex and Exlar" which sound like medieval amulets or swords, essential props of the English novel or examples of the linguistic theory that words are differentiated by sound, not referential meaning.

The novel deploys - wittily,

so that no reader will need more information than the text offers him - many critical theories from Hazlitt to Northrop Frye, from neo-Marxism to post-structuralism.

I have been puzzled by some of the more extreme current critical discussions on "desire" in a text. Barthes calls the text a fetish, and moreover "a fetish that desires me". (Part of the meaning of this is that the writer desires the unknown reader to complete him, as the reader desires contact with the unknown writer). David Lodge's academic Romance is cognisant of this pervasive use of the word, and his fleeing women and vanishing mirages of satisfaction are games with it in a context - the endlessly unconsummated Quest for love or knowledge - which is wholly appropriate.

Conferences on "genre" (there is one in this book) might well debate the "campus novel" as well as the Romance. In the past it has, in this country, been satire or farce. *Lucky Jim* put firecrackers under seats and pulled loathsome faces: *The History of Mr. Kipling* took a run at modern deterministic theories of history and culture. *Rates of Exchange* contemplates the debasement of language and other currencies with a gloomy anxiety under its local laughter. Campus novels are not necessarily limited and local in their concerns. A university, too, like the Round Table or the Global Village is a small world, but a world. This one is seen with a benign and intelligently comic vision: a virtual world, selectively obeying some, but not all the laws of the real one.



Wallflowers, slackers, and Victorian society in *The Ball on Shipboard*

Painter of vulgar society

James Tissot
By Michael Wentworth

(Oxford, £50)

Vulgar Society, James Laver called his pioneering book on Tissot, picking up the phrase, with some but not quite all of its disapproving overtones, from Ruskin's remarks on Tissot in *Fora Clavigera*. But by the end of the story Laver has come to see Tissot's reprehensible interest in vulgar society as his claim on the attention of 1936: "he is assured of his immortality, if not in the History of Art, at least in *l'Histoire des mœurs*." Of course, since Tissot died in 1902, a student of his work was a lot nearer to him than we are now to be that student, and it may reasonably be supposed that the time has come for a new definition of Tissot's standing. It is no doubt significant that Michael Wentworth's absorbing critical biography appears shamelessly among the "Oxford Studies in the History of Art and Architecture" rather than in the Oxford *Histoire des mœurs*.

Even Ruskin conceded that Tissot might be a capable painter, whose work could improve the taste of the essentially tasteless. "If he would obey his graver thoughts" - which meant, naturally, some kind of lofty allegory rather than bourgeois reality. *The Spectator* in 1879 put it in a nutshell: "To have the power of painting almost anything in the world, and to choose to paint a five-o'clock tea-table - could any condemnation be really more than the one the artist passes upon his own work by the choice of such subjects?" However, Tissot seems to have been artistically unrepentant - religious repentance being, as it happens, something else.

Seeing the light, and becoming very serious indeed, he lost his touch, in everything except the making of money. His later series of paintings on religious themes and illustrations of the New Testament and then the Old were contrived with real De Mille showmanship: a lot of publicity about his search for authenticity on the actual sites in the Holy Land, and the sparing of no expense in seeking out the correct period accessories, cannot disguise the fact that his biblical maidens are chorus-girls and his prophets, like his profits, come straight off the boulevard.

All the same, he seems to have been sincere: as with De Mille, if one asks whether he was truly interested in God or Mammon, the answer is evidently both. Despite Arnold Bennett's nasty stories about his determination to dispose of his mistress, conveyed to her by a letter in a misaddressed envelope and resulting in her suicide, in fact he was totally devoted to his Mrs Newton, whom he took up with soon after his arrival in England, painted her obsessively, nursed her faithfully through her last illness, and found God at her side. And he was, after all, an excellent painter. It is not easy to be sure of his attitude to vulgar society, just as we cannot now know whether his involvement with the Commune, which drove him from France, was sincere or opportunistic. But this ambiguity makes him one of our best, because most disinterested, witnesses. As a friend of Manet and careful student of Japanese art (not to mention photography), he knew what was going on in art, and knew, till God put him, what he did best. Mr Wentworth imparts a new interest in the man, but also a new respect for his art.

John Russell Taylor

Family and fighting history of the bravest of the brave

The Gurkhas
By Byron Farwell

(Allen Lane, £12.50)

"I would to God my name were not so terrible to the enemy as it is," says the most popular soldier in our literature, and the battalion of Gurkhas who fought in the Falklands might agree, for they were disappointed when their opponents fled unscathed. It is not enough, though, that the British people should regard Gurkhas simply as formidable in battle: we should recognize their admirable qualities as human beings, so that, when need arises, we can willingly pay the debt we owe for their loyalty and devotion in our own hard times since 1815.

Byron Farwell's book gives a comprehensive survey of the lives and achievements of the Gurkha soldiers of Nepal. In less than 320 pages he has written, in an easy and readable

style, an outline of their history since 1742, a description of the theatres of war in which they have been engaged, and an account of their festivals, homes and family life.

He follows the fortunes of those regiments which remained in the Indian Army, and those transferred to the British. Thus, he has the opportunity to record the traumatic effect of Indian independence on the Gurkhas themselves, on their British officers and on the Indian officers who arrived at the shortest possible notice to take over those battalions which were to stay in India.

It is a measure of the soldierly qualities of all of them that immediately after the change-over the Indian Army battalions went straight off with unknown officers to fight in Kashmir, while the British Army battalions within a few months were confronting terrorists in Malaya. These were

probably the most demoralizing circumstances Gurkhas have ever had to face; yet in both armies they triumphantly maintained their splendid reputation. So there can be happy endings even to modern stories.

Readers of *The Gurkhas* will find intriguing "family secrets": for instance, the cast-iron rule in operations on the North-West Frontier that no British officer ever stayed with the last group to leave a picket position. The author also takes care to explain the status of Gurkha officers; they are almost the equivalent of centuries in the Roman Army, promoted from the ranks and men of immense prestige.

The book has a good bibliography and an adequate map of Northern India and Nepal ("From China to Peru" - almost - would be needed to cover all the Gurkha battlefields).

Cyril Jarvis

Something Out There

By Nadine Gordimer

(Cape, £8.50)

The Tenth Crusade

By Christopher Hyde

(Hodder & Stoughton, £7.95)

Some creature - an ape, a baboon, a large wild dog, or animal, might be a man, is glimpsed by disparate residents in the prosperous white suburbs of Johannesburg, lurking in the shadows of the trees. Pets are killed, provisions stolen, fruit-trees ravaged. Tith-

lating copy for local newspapers, which hide from powerful political issues in gossip and such mildly sensational tattle. Yet there is genuine underlying fear that there is something out there. In the title story of Nadine Gordimer's latest outstanding collection, the activities of the creature and the reactions of those it visits (superbly characterized and observed with cool satiric wit) are counterpointed by the patient preparations of a guerrilla cell (two black men, a white man and woman) for an act of sabotage. Their own relationships are recorded with finger-point sensitivity, while their deadly seriousness of purpose gives an ominous symbolic impact to the presence of the mysterious alien creature which threatens (however fleetingly) the complacency of a society trying hard to ignore its own tensions of menace, fear, wilful apathy and guilt.

Naturally a number of stories deal with Southern African predicaments - in black nations as well as in the dominant white-ruled state: most effectively when they focus upon stress, personal loyalty and human values against the wider social and political background. Three of the most memorable pieces concern letters: a brilliantly imagined reply from the grave by Kafka's father to his son's posthumous complaint, which for some readers will seem as illuminating as criticism as it is as fiction; the chilling outcome of a compassionate interchange of mail between a young liberal woman and a political prisoner; and most movingly, the one-sided account of the love and

frustration of man and woman reconstructed from old letters discovered in a trunk. For all her intellectual acumen and political sincerity, it is in the conviction which Nadine Gordimer brings to her wise understanding of human relationships that she luminously excels. Few writers are able to portray with such perception and compassion the delight, tolerant submission, shyness, flashes of certainty between a woman and a man who love (in whatever sense) honestly, if sometimes helplessly, as well as the reluctant sorrow and hurt that might often ensue.

The political threat in *The Tenth Crusade*, a powerful thriller by Christopher Hyde, is more crudely stated but effective enough, perhaps because of the frightening telescopic flickerings of the God lobby in the current US presidential squabble. Mr Hyde (who does not have many kind thoughts about President Reagan) postulates a link between religious fanaticism and extreme right-wing realism, cynically exploiting the revisions of the moral majority. A veteran photo-journalist, Kirkland, is visited unexpectedly by the woman he once loved passionately, from whom he had parted agonizingly many years before. Almost immediately the girl disappears, violently abducted. He joins forces with a research historian, daughter of an American senator who she believes was driven to suicide by the same Tenth Crusade who appear to have dragged off Kirkland's former love. The tantalizing moves quickly with vivid description and technological expertise.

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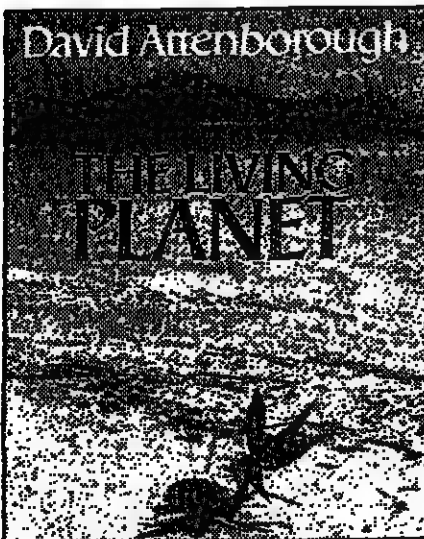
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Grand old classic

Gilbert Murray
By Francis West

(Croom Helm, £17.50)

Gilbert Murray, Professor of Greek at Oxford for the first third of this century, was more than a distinguished classical scholar. His translations of Ancient Greek drama, particularly Euripides, on the stage and between - slim green covers, introduced them to generations who had no Greek. He was denounced by T. S. Eliot as a poor man's Swinburne, who stretched Greek brevity to fit the loose frame of William Morris. Maurice Bowra used to tell the anecdote of Murray reading his version to his students: "Death and a cold white thing within the house." His students looked at the Greek text, and found no more than "e e a a." But the great names of the British stage, from Bernard Shaw and Henry Irving to Sybil Thorndike, found the ancient magic in Murray's somewhat Pre-Raphaelite versions.

He was a liberal, a strong agnostic and anti-clericalist, an idealist. In his old age he described himself as the last of the Victorians. He was a founder of the League of Nations, and became its chairman. His life was not without political and personal tensions: his sons disliked him; his relationship with his rather grand wife, who had an even sterner devotion to good works and reformist politics than he, was sometimes prickly. This authorized biography by the Professor of History and Government at Deakin University, Geelong, Australia, is based on the large unpublished Murray archives in the Bodleian. It is a straightforward account of a grand old classic, who influenced the way that his contemporaries thought on



Gilbert Murray OM
topics ranging from Greek culture to modern poetry, and from schooling to international politics.

Philip Howard

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Gosh more Jings in heaven and earth

Science and Parascience

A History of the Paranormal, 1914-1939

By Brian Inglis

(Hodder & Stoughton, £12.95)

In those happy childhood days when Centre Point was no more than a malicious glint in the planner's eye and Ann Summers still romped in her Wendy House, the bottom of Tottenham Court Road, at least for inquisitive schoolboys, meant *The Wizard's Den*, a magic shop with a thousand mysterious ways to amaze your friends: pencils with bending points, non-dissolving sugar cubes, nails which went through your finger, "naughty Fido" dog excrement, and screaming cushions.

There were moments in this second volume of Brian Inglis's history of the paranormal when I felt sustained by a similar curiosity about techniques for distorting reality. When were we going to get to the section on "human levitation", the stories about pseudopods, extending from arms, the cases of people returning from the dead: the "gosh" bits.

Inglis is quite prepared for this type of reaction. Although delighted by opinion polls which show the greater readiness of the public to accept ESP (somewhere between 70 and 80 per cent) he knows that the overall paranormal case is hardly likely to be furthered among disbelievers by many of the examples cited in this volume. In an age when psychic researchers concentrate on nothing much more dramatic than guessing random numbers, "the last thing they want is exhibitions of mediumship, with trumpets blowing in darkened rooms, or ectoplasm erupting into grotesque forms". But despite this he bravely decides to include even quite bizarre examples on the grounds that it is his job to present the truth as he knows it and allow the jury of readers to assess its credibility.

The intention is not always realised. As in the earlier *Natural and Supernatural*, which took the story up to 1914, Inglis is soon nudging the jury towards his own point of view. Those on the side of lifting tables and sounding trumpets and spouting ectoplasm have a habit of turning out to be honest, decent, truthful, and only just a wee bit prone to cheating while their opponents are reluctantly "forced to admit", shown to be unreliable, and found to be prejudiced. By page 338, Inglis himself is ready to agree that: "In trying to clear away the debris of misconception and misinterpretation, I have found it difficult not to slip into the role of counsel for

the defence". It is, perhaps, a partiality which is inevitable when he is seeking to defend the validity of anecdotes by reference to such a volatile feature as the actual character of human witnesses.

Students of the paranormal are thereby led towards a real dilemma. If they decide to follow Inglis's path, they are forced to include the type of material which will inevitably have them dismissed as superstitious and gullible: material which can never expect to be accorded "scientific" status. But, as history has also shown, if they take the other path and concentrate entirely upon only the most rigorous and controlled experimental work, then their results will be attacked by other scientists and sceptics with a fervour and an array of weapons which if brought to bear upon more orthodox scientific work, would quickly raise doubt about its own truth claims.

Thus, parapsychologists have been attacked by some for their historical association with magic and religion (nicely ignoring the alchemical origins of chemistry). They have been told that nothing they claim can possibly be true as long as it conflicts so fundamentally with what is known (a restriction which would have preserved Newtonian physics). They have been reminded, without regard for the implications for economics, that statistical probability is a dubious foundation for knowledge: they have been blamed for failing to maintain absolute control over the influence of the experimenter (Barewell, social psychology).

It is not too surprising then, that Inglis, although he does full justice to Rhine's work on card-guessing, should largely opt for the less rigorous and more populist course, even going so far as to express sympathy with Olive Lodge's belief that "psychical research took a wrong turning in seeking academic recognition if that also meant losing contact with the general public".

So, while at Edinburgh University, the new Koestler Professor of Parapsychology will soon be assembling a rigorous and controlled approach to matters psychical, we can expect further volumes along the present eclectic lines from the indefatigable Mr Inglis. That really should be welcome news for everyone. Sceptics can continue to sharpen themselves up on his methodological failings, the credulous can find as much proof as they wish of Horatio's enduring narrow-mindedness, and even overgrown aficionados of *The Wizard's Den* can have a little quiet fun pressing their nose against the glass and muttering "Gosh".

Laurie Taylor

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THE TIMES DIARY

Still up in the air

Unlikely bedfellows, Michael Shea, the Queen's press secretary, and David Frost, now the only remaining member of the Famous Five at TV-am, are to publish *The Mid-Atlantic Companion*, a sort of book version of British Airways in-flight magazine.

Yesterday, a coy Michael Shea refused to be drawn on the subject. "It's far too early to talk about this," and despite his eight years experience as the Palace pressman, had the naivety to ask me to name my source. But why choose Frost? For his transatlantic connexions, of course. He travels a lot. Frost, meanwhile, was being even more tight-lipped, and failed to return my calls yesterday.

The pair probably crystallized the deal last November during Frost's much-publicized TV-am interview with Prince Andrew on his Falklands exploits. The "Famous One," who I suspect called on Shea to secure his royal coup, is certainly bent on sustaining his jet-set image at all costs. I am told Frost and his wife, Lady Carina, are looking for a nanny to take sole charge of their baby from the summer. His mother-in-law, the Duchess of Norfolk, apparently puts it down to the couple's travelling commitments.

Coverage charge



Ingham: privileged hearing

The fruits of wisdom do not come cheaply where Bernard Ingham, Mrs Thatcher's chief press secretary, is concerned. For the privilege of hearing him reveal the techniques needed to obtain "positive press coverage," members of the Industrial Society are being charged £69, and non-members £82.80, for a 90-minute meeting at the Society's Carlton House Terrace HQ tomorrow. A buffet lunch is thrown in. Proceeds go to the Society. Mr Ingham, who is giving his services free, is likely to be rewarded with, I am told, a case of fine claret.

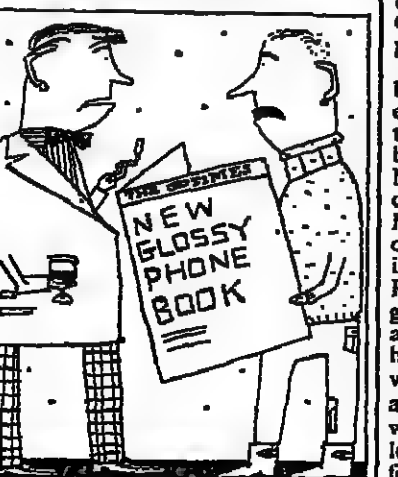
On the block

An ill omen, far more portentous than the present press speculation about the Arts Council's cutbacks, has been delivered to the staff at the threatened Hayward Gallery. Next Wednesday, the council meets to decide where to cut £7m of funds for the arts. On March 30, the council is holding a press conference to announce its decision publicly. The Hayward, however, already believe they are the victims: the staff have been called to a management meeting on March 29.

Writ in stone

After naming names of masons within Brent council, I now learn that Lewisman's Labour group has just passed a motion declaring that membership of the Freemasons is incompatible with membership of the Labour Party. Now all Labour councillors are to be asked to pledge, in writing, that they are not masons. Yesterday, they said they would go further: motion declaring that membership of Freemasons is incompatible with service in local government is to go before the full Labour-controlled council, and if passed, as is likely, the jobs of some officers could be threatened. Meanwhile councillor David Sullivan, proposer of the original motion, tells me he is negotiating with a defector mason to release his secret list of local lodge members.

BARRY FANTONI



"Tarquin's furious - he designed the whole office around the old buff, green and pink."

Eireways

A Donegal priest, Father Eoghan O Frigill, has won a battle for the Irish cause. British Airways barred him from boarding a Belfast to London flight after the patriotic priest refused to translate his name into English at the ticket desk. "Our staff are not familiar with Russian or Irish," said BA, who, after protests from an Irish MP, John Hume, have now pledged to accept all names Irish.

PHS

Deadlock: Ian Murray looks at Europe's summit confusion



Before the break-up: Mrs Thatcher and the other European Community leaders at the Brussels conference.

Europe's odd woman out

tax base could increase from the present 1 per cent ceiling to a 1.4 per cent ceiling in 1986, rising to 1.6 per cent from 1988.

But she kept a very firm condition on that. She would not send the proposal on for necessary ratification by the parliament until such time as she was offered the budget deal she came to get.

And the deal, having been within reach, finally eluded everyone - not because it was too expensive, but because everyone needed to make concessions in principles which were too difficult at this stage to sell to domestic opinion when the summit was over.

The problem looked different, as Sir Geoffrey Howe tried vainly to explain, depending on which end of the telescope was being peered down. The result was that Britain wanted a system which it would pass off as showing it made a small but generous contribution. The others wanted a system which showed them as making a small but generous rebate to Britain.

Obviously the definition of both small and generous was a very subjective one, but the reason the summit took so long to fail was that a determined effort was made by everyone to find ways of bridging the gap, or at least, in a series of technical and apparently insignificant formulas, to appear to be doing so.

It was an exercise in blinding the public with science in which Britain conspired. The aim was to prove to the electorate of Europe - which goes to the polls for the direct elections to the European Parliament in three months - that everyone was being generous and believed deeply in Europe.

The exercise failed because Mrs Thatcher could not persuade the others to agree to a system by which Britain, on a scale related to its wealth, paid a maximum contribution. Instead they were prepared to offer a system which meant Britain was paid back a rebate on contributions over and above that ceiling.

Though the gap was narrowed by the technicians to a very bridgeable £150 m - insignificant if just a few of them shared it out - the politicians of the "new nine" could not go home and tell their electorates that they had given Mrs Thatcher back nearly everything she was asking for.

Mrs Thatcher or the image she has built up must take a large measure of the blame for this. She has become the bogeywoman of Europe. Opinion polls showing her falling domestic popularity are published prominently in papers throughout the EEC. Her reputation, built up relentlessly at summit after summit, for always getting her way, has raised hackles.

The EEC and Nato between them may have put an end to war in western Europe. Nowadays the

public have only football matches and summits in which to give vent to their historic chauvinism.

But for all that, this summit nearly succeeded, with the givers and takers nearly grasping each other's outstretched hands. While the intransigent Mrs Thatcher stayed in the limelight, it almost went unnoticed that all 10 had agreed to a four-page paper on new policies needed to build the Community. It was almost taken for granted that there had to be strict budgetary discipline - an unheard-of concept not so long ago.

If it had not been for the Irish milk question, there was very close agreement on a strictly controlled agricultural price package. Everyone wanted more money spent on regional and social policies. And they all agreed - provisionally - to increase resources. Foreign ministers had little difficulty, meanwhile, in putting together a common text on the Lebanon, proving how closely the EEC countries work together on foreign policy.

If personalities could be kept out of the argument over the next few weeks, there remains every chance that the Community's worsening financial situation will force everyone to peer down the same end of the telescope.

That will be more difficult if Mrs Thatcher gives way to the volume of noise within her own party and in the opinion polls, demanding that she withhold payment of at least part of Britain's monthly £100m net contribution.

And the European election campaign, which is now warming up, will further complicate the matter as national leaders strike chauvinistic poses. Success at the June summit is not impossible if the leaders ignore the cartoons and the headlines.

In disarray: Robert Fisk on Lebanon's retreat from the conference table

Why all roads lead to war

Lausanne It was somehow typical of President Amin Gemayel that he should claim, in the early hours of yesterday, that Lebanon's wretched conference for national reconciliation had had "positive results". The only definitive result of the failure of Lebanese politicians to reach agreement at Lausanne on their country's future is likely to be a horrifying and even more savage round of civil warfare in Beirut, without even the hope of outside intervention now to smother it.

"I am going home immediately," one of the Christian Maronite delegates' officials said yesterday. "When I get home I am going to collect my family and pack up the valuables in my house and leave immediately". His feeling was widely shared; but there was Mr Gemayel stoutly denying that he had ever offered to resign during the conference, still insisting that he hoped for great things after the Lausanne talks. How big can an explosion be?

The truth is that everyone lost at Lausanne. Lebanon lost one of its last chances - perhaps the very last chance - to remain a unified country, because the sectarian interests of its leaders proved greater than their nationalist memory. Syria lost because its political victory over the US failed to produce any worthwhile alternative to President Reagan's Cyclops-like policies of support for the Gemayel government. The Muslims of Lebanon, having discovered that Syria can no longer be relied on to support their more extreme demands have returned empty handed, to Beirut where far darker forces are advocating a military push into east Beirut that would fracture the whole Christian Maronite structure of power.

It is a frightful prospect. Even before the Lausanne peace conference, there were signs - the trajectory of certain artillery bombardments, the deployment of Shia Muslim militias in the Chiyah district of the capital - that the Muslims were planning some form of offensive against the increasingly isolated Christian suburb of Ein el-Ramach. The Christian Phalangists - whose ancient representative at Lausanne, Pierre Gemayel, found himself torn between the Christian warriors for whom he was meant to argue and the President-son to whom he was still bound by family loyalty - are well aware that only a few of their units and one brigade of the Lebanese government army now prevent a Druze onslaught across the valley of the Metn river that could, if successful, give anti-government militias possession of the presidential palace itself.

Amin Gemayel's last stand would not be a heroic affair because few of the Phalangists will now align themselves with the President who so publicly changed his allegiance from Washington to Damascus. But on the ground in Beirut it is clear that the static warfare of the past six weeks may soon become, again, a battle for more territory in which the Christians are almost certain to lose.

The Syrians still support the legitimacy of Gemayel's government. But their seal of approval is



Amin Gemayel: an unheroic last stand?

going to look ever more shabby as the Lebanese realize that the Government of National Salvation, which they thought could be created in Lausanne, is little more than a chimera. Though the Shia Muslim and Druze delegates at Lausanne were appalled by Syria's commitment to the Gemayel administration, they know that Damascus would be obliged to support them militarily in a further round of civil war. Thus the Syrians may shortly have to choose between further political paralysis in Lebanon or further participation in the war, allying itself with the anti-government parties as surely as the Americans were until recently allying themselves with Amin Gemayel and by association with the Phalangists.

In fact the Syrian proposals at Geneva, had they been accepted, were not an unworthy attempt to heal Lebanon's wounds. Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice-president, had presented to the conference a nine-page document containing a list of carefully argued reforms that would have granted

substantially more power to the Muslims of Lebanon without diminishing the prestige of the Christian Maronites. There would have been an exchange of prisoners, a return of refugees - Christian and Muslim - to the homes they owned before the civil war started. Reforms in the constitution and parliament would have taken place over three years while a sophisticated system of power-checking as well as power-sharing would have been inaugurated by an enlarged parliament with a prime minister responsible to the assembly rather than to the president. In a perfect world, or in a less imperfect world, the Khaddam document might have been a success. But in the end it served only to emphasize just how far Lebanon has disintegrated.

The reforms discussed with such fury at Lausanne simply bore little or no relation to the aspirations of the militias in Beirut to whom the next street, or the next ruined apartment block has now become a more serious objective than the establishment of a state in which they can all share. In one way,

therefore - and it is a dangerous development - Lausanne has also proved how enormous is the gap that now separates the militias of Beirut from the men who claim to control them.

Yet since the Christians have been proposing a form of federal Lebanon, a country partitioned by mutual agreement rather than hostility they have been talking more realistically than the Muslims. By acknowledging that Lebanon cannot be put back together again, they could, in the long term, prove to be the winners. It is of course true as Suleiman Franjeh, Syria's Maronite ally, told his equally old adversary, Camille Chamoun, last week that Lebanon is not a homogenous state: if the country is to be broken into cantons, it would involve vast shifts of the population: Christian villagers south of Jezzine would have to abandon their homes and move north of Beirut; the Muslims of Byblos would have to travel east; the Christian inhabitants in the predominantly Muslim Bekaa valley, including virtually the entire population of the town of Zabl, might be forced westwards to the Mediterranean side of Mount Sannine.

This huge geographical displacement would be carried out in a bloody and fearful fashion, although it might ultimately bring about a grim status quo in the Lebanese war. All sides know this, which is why the Christians expect an onslaught on east Beirut. Territory gained now will have to be traded later.

It is on the other hand little surprise that Israel has made known its support for a federal Lebanon. A state broken up into suspicious feudal cantons is easier to control: grace and favour can be extended to one frightened minority after another, depending on their helpfulness or their usefulness to what Israel always describes as its "security interests".

The Israelis, having turned the Shia Muslims against them in southern Lebanon, are now trying to reestablish relations with the Lebanese Druze while not ignoring their original Phalangist allies.

Syria and Israel, the two powers that still keep huge armies in Lebanon - the Syrian forces larger though less well armed than the Israeli - are now aligning themselves on opposite sides in the new Lebanese conflict. It is already a dry spring in Lebanon: the ground is hard enough for tanks to travel - and the implications are obvious to both sides. The Americans now want to distance themselves from Lebanon after their own debacle there but whether they would resist a desperate appeal from a frightened Christian minority, an appeal supported by Israel, is another matter.

The Syrians, who have never flinched at using force in its most ruthless form - as they did in their own city of Hama in 1982 - certainly suspect that they may not have seen the last of the US Sixth Fleet. For the Lebanese, however, the future seems grimly obvious: there may be plans for yet another ceasefire but Beirut looks set to become a killing ground again with Lebanon's future ever more certainly its own disintegration.



Poised for action: in Beirut

Ronald Butt

Needed: help and advice from inside

If Mrs Thatcher felt hard done by it would be understandable. Every time some attempt is made by the government to deal with public spending which is excessive or misapplied, ministers are battered by the media, by their own backbenchers and by a congeries of inter-linked pressure groups led by people with a vested interest in destroying the Government's intentions in the name of the low-paid, child poverty, housing need and so on. Immediately the Government takes any action, the Labour Party can summon up the angry spirits and statistics of people professionally skilled in defending what are called minority interests, and who do it with all their heart because their political beliefs are founded on the proposition that the more public money is funnelled out to the interests in whose name they command a public platform the better. The interest of the majority, saddled with the totality of their claims, is of little account to them.

When the pressure groups go into action, the Government is quickly wrong-footed, for these operators are very powerful. As well as having strong links with the Labour Party, not to mention a number of government departments, they exert a powerful influence on public opinion through their friends in the media of communications. These communicators look almost automatically to the pressure groups to supply what is taken as dispassionate truth because, since the 1960s, the dominant climate of what is taken as informed opinion, and the assumptions of the media have largely been determined by (or have developed hand in hand with) the pressure groups' aspirations. Dispassionate truth (so defined) then comes armed with the hard metal of supporting statistics, with which hearts are nowadays moved more than by common sense.

The government, it is true, has been able to hold back public spending to the point at which it should be kept steady in absolute terms for the next five years, and should (given economic growth) be a shrinking proportion of the national output. Yet if growth were to falter and public spending became a renewed problem, the axe would have to be wielded hastily and without due care. That is why some of the Government's friendly critics argue that what is needed is a systematic look at state spending (including the welfare services) now so that acceptable priorities can be determined.

The Government knows that at some stage radical changes will have to be contemplated. But Mrs Thatcher's position is that when she does attempt to settle such things she wants support. She does not want to be assailed by the pressure groups, disowned by the elements in the media which support economies in theory but never in practice, and harried by Tory backbenchers. She fears that she would be deserted on particular issues at the height of the fray and does not intend to take that risk.

She was crucially influenced by adverse reactions, during the last parliament, to the leaking of her think tank's report, which had probably sensationalized the size of the public spending problem while enumerating some possible cures that were so politically unacceptable

as to seem to vitiate the whole exercise. That episode confirmed Mrs Thatcher's temperamental distrust of attempts at overall and systematic solutions which anyway smack to her of left-wing habits of mind. She prefers pragmatism. The think tank, in her view, was better at asking questions than answering them, and so she abolished it.

The trouble is that without the think tank the questions are not being asked systematically at all. The think tank may not have been the best method. For one thing it contained too many people with insufficient political instinct and too inclined to equate dispassionate expertise with intellectual *jeu d'esprit*. Mrs Thatcher's policy unit could, if large enough, be a better alternative, but it is too small. The trouble with the Government is that the longer it stays in office, the more vulnerable ministers are to the departmental machines which surround them.

For the moment, their best protection is from the special advisers who, particularly in the social departments, help to provide a counterweight to departmental opinion that is influenced by precisely the kind of interest group attitudes to which I referred earlier. But there are few of them; only about 15 in all the Whitehall departments together and about eight with the policy unit at 10 Downing Street.

The role of the special advisers is invaluable, particularly in the highly politicized social departments (with their pressure group connexions) where the Civil Servants are a great deal less open-minded and are much more committed to their own causes than are those in the Treasury. But the work of the single adviser is hard going in face of the departmental Leviathan.

All this leaves ministers vulnerable to the inertia or the commitments of the Whitehall machine; too often ministers are unprepared for the political realities (housing benefits again was a notorious case) and too often public opinion is not properly tapped for the latent support it contains. Yet if Mrs Thatcher fears that radical acts cannot command support, the Budget this year is a significant proof that when radical things are done with determination and conviction, and are seen to meet real need, they will command support.

In parts of the Conservative Party there is a belief that the Government is failing to make use of its friends just when (because hardwired ministers with too little time to think have been in office for five gruelling years) political backing and thinking could be most useful. As for the welfare state, Mrs Thatcher has, of course, other political reasons for caution. She is not hard-hearted and will not so act. As a beneficiary herself of the Beveridge system, she could not contemplate radical changes in it that did not lead to a new "Beveridge" at least as good. All this, as well as fear that changes will unleash the rage of the pressure groups, and bring martyrdom on *Newspaper* and *Panorama*, lie behind the Prime Minister's caution. If improved systems are to be devised, in which the public money is spent better, who is to do the thinking? For certainly there will be no improvement without more thought.

Paul Pickering

A raven in a flap over a bomber

Hector, the irascible talking raven I adopted last year at London Zoo, is in full voice again and has been hobnobbing with his mate Doris. Unfortunately, far from the usual gentle billing and cooing associated with this time of year when the sap begins to rise and every young bird's thoughts turn to romance, a discordant note could be heard.

At first Hector was content to nip through the wire or peevishly stab the penguin next door. But finally his grumbling mood became quite ugly. Teams of psychologists who were rushed to the scene eventually found the problem was a question of taste or rather lack of it.

The wicked bird, you may recall, for many years had raven at the Tower of London, was incarcerated at the zoo for defending the historic fortress against American tourists in hideous cheek jacks. The last straw was when he landed on the shoulder of a senior citizen from Little Rock and exclaimed: "I'm Hector", before wrestling the badly shocked woman's floral hat to the ground.

Such is American influence these days, from GCHQ to the Beebeaters, that this high-spirited bird still languishes behind bars. This week he learnt that the insensitive Yanks has added insult to injury by naming part of their nuclear bombing fleet after the species to which he belongs, without even asking him.

The United States Third Air Force "Raven" is a modification of the F-111 atomic bomber, and provides an electronic screen for "friendly attacking aircraft" by hanging around battlefields and jamming the Russians' radar.

Now while it is true that ravens in the past did get a bad name by blackening the sky over medieval battlefields, earning the name "vulture of the north", such things are anachronism to the modern bird are anachronism to the modern bird. Hector, however, the future seems grimly obvious: there may be plans for yet another ceasefire but Beirut looks set to become a killing ground again with Lebanon's future ever more certainly its own disintegration.

have not got any information on that. No, it's not a black aircraft, it's sort of whitish grey."

Didn't he think it macabre calling this ill-voiced weapon a raven? The Vikings, hardly masters of delicate taste to show the bird on their ships' sails to put whoever beach they were storming up that there would be no quarter. Why not go the whole hog and call the plane a vulture, a native American bird?

"Well, birds are very popular names for planes; there's the Eagle and the Fighting Falcon", continued Captain Yaple as hungry peace women howled eerily outside Upper Heyford's gates. But to appease Hector he posted off the full details of the plane, weight, range and so forth, everything except the in-flight movie over Kiev.

"It's very Anglo-Saxon, this naming of planes", said Mr George Clout of the Imperial War Museum. "But ravens do have rather a sinister connexion with carrion and battlefields. There is certainly no British plane called a raven. There are some names like, say, Daschund, that one just would not use. Although the RAF did call one plane a wildebeest."

But whatever the flying Wildebeest did, it was not of lasting damage to the animal's reputation. It found a friendly sort of aircraft.

On the other hand, Hector points out, the EF-111A seems a very sneaky kind of plane indeed, likely to completely ruin Corvus Corax's carefully nurtured new image as the thinking man's crow. He is considering calling his lawyers.

To be blamed for starting the Third World War would be bad enough, even if one's own back were glowing brightly among the rubble. But think of the ITV interference the jamming plane may cause in peace time. Murder has been done before now to those who have come between the man on the Clapham omnibus and his *Coronation Street*.

The parrot house agrees that it is a clear case of criminal libel that the Third Air Force should be in jail. Doris adds this is the needless clumsiness with names one expects from a president who called his first wife Monkeypuss.



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A DRAMA, BUT NOT A CRISIS

Ascribing degrees of responsibility for the break-down of the Brussels summit could provide a testing subject for some future historian's essay. As so often happens on such occasions, accident, misunderstanding and national as well as personal psychology played a part in it. The ferocious and curious row between the Prime Minister and the other heads of state, at cross-purposes, on Monday night was itself enough to illustrate that point. Mrs Thatcher apparently thought that the French scheme for measuring the gap (for the purposes of compensation) between national payments to and receipts from the Community would exclude farm levies and tariffs from the calculation altogether. The others seemed to think that she was not prepared for any part of these duties to be excluded. This led to an abstruse and unnecessary argument about who really owns such levies and duties until Mrs Thatcher was reassured that the French scheme only excluded them in part, and the others understood that this was something the British Prime Minister could accept.

In fact, it was the French scheme that, by Tuesday afternoon, had been accepted in principle by the British as providing the long-term system that this country has persistently sought. It was not everything that the British had wanted. The gap between payments and contributions that would be arrived at from the French formula was smaller than under the original British scheme. In addition, that gap would not be compensated for in its entirety. But the principle of ability to pay was preserved, and the system was durable and long term. Mrs Thatcher was prepared to accept it as a basis for detailed negotiations between now and the next summit in June. Indeed, she went out of her way in the House of Commons yesterday to pay a tribute to President Mitterrand for being "most helpful" in producing a system which could have achieved a reasonable settlement.

What, then, went wrong? Up to Athens, all the member countries in the Community were working to produce a long-term system to deal with the budgetary imbalance. At Athens, the French suddenly retreated from this, suggesting not a system but *ad hoc* measures to help Britain. This was wholly unacceptable and the Athens summit broke up in confusion and ill-humour. Afterwards, however, the French President

himself began to work quietly towards a system, and the one prepared for Brussels was the result. At that moment, however, when the heads of government had turned towards considering the figures to fit it, events took a turn which is not easy to explain. The trigger appears to have been the decision of the Irish Prime Minister, Dr Fitzgerald, to walk out of the meeting in protest against the "super-levy" on milk, agreed by the Community's agriculture ministers last week to reduce the surplus of this commodity.

Immediately after the Irish walk-out (and so far as can be judged from the surface of the things, partly because of it) the atmosphere suddenly became more sour. Most surprisingly, though the Germans had persistently supported our requirement of a long-term system (at Athens and before the German Chancellor Dr Kohl, suddenly switched to proposing an *ad hoc* system which, in the end, boiled down to a relief payment of 1,000 million ecu a year (£600 million) to Britain for five years with vague talk of a system thereafter. To the British, it meant no durable system, and accordingly Brussels recorded one more failure on the part of the Community to settle its differences. But how serious is that failure for the future of the Community?

The first decision to be taken by the British Cabinet now is whether to withhold British contributions to the EEC in compensation for the rebate of £475 million agreed at Stuttgart and now frozen by the French and Italian governments. The political pressures on Mrs Thatcher to withhold are strong and may be politically irresistible. The Government will certainly not find it easy to get full support from its own party for the bill due to come before the House of Commons next week to sanction the grant of £100 million to the Commission, an advance of revenue to meet the Commission's financial difficulties. It may well be that the Cabinet will decide on an enabling bill to allow contributions to be held up.

As a stand-by facility for the financial problems which will affect Britain and all member states later this year, if there is no settlement, that would be reasonable. But it would be unwise for the Government to make instant use of it to withhold contributions. That would simply further sour an atmosphere that, despite the Brussels break-down, is more

hopeful than it may seem. What matters is not this year's rebate but a long-term settlement. The reality of the situation is that, in the long run, the members of the Community have no realistic alternative than to try to make it work. Talk of a break away of the other nine, and the isolation of Britain, is an absurdity. Though there is a danger that the political parties in each country will talk tough in the coming weeks for the benefit of their home electorates, in preparation for the European Parliament elections, they should try to resist it.

Later this year if there is no settlement, some members of the Community, particularly those who make no sufficient provision to cover their agricultural commitments in their own budgets (the Irish and Greeks, for instance) will face financial difficulties. As this year's budget is exhausted, the final months of 1984 could bring some acute difficulties. On the other hand, more money becomes available to the Community on January 1, 1985; it will not run right out of money but simply find, each year, that there is no settlement of its resources run out a month or two earlier.

What we face now is not a crisis in the real meaning of the term but a period of slowly intensifying discomfort which, as time passes, will increasingly demand the relief of a long-term solution. That cannot be achieved without Britain, and Mrs Thatcher must hang on until it is one that meets Britain's essential interest. That means that it must last. There is not the slightest reason to think that the other members of the Community envisage carrying on without us. By now the links are too close for that. The Community is not for unscrambling.

It is an organization functioning on two levels. Its formal arrangements provide for give and take between national states, each member seeking to maximize its own benefit as well as contributing to the common advantage. When each takes as much as it can get, it is absurd to charge Britain with risking the noble political ends of the Community every time that this country (like all the rest) guards its own interest. The Community has an invaluable political function in the free world. Perhaps its greatest value is in its informal political links rather than its economic arrangements. Our insistence on reforming the latter does not put the real value of the Community at risk.

MORE BELLICOSITY IN LEBANON

Lebanon is almost certainly in for another round of extremely vicious fighting after the failure of the Lausanne conference. A failure not seriously disguised by agreement to refer all the main issues to a wider body of unspecified composition sometime "within six months" nor by the verbal "consolidation" of a ceasefire which always in the past has proved short-lived when not underpinned by a political understanding.

Lebanon's ambassador in London, in a letter published on this page last week, asserted that "foreign interference is demonstrably at the root of all Lebanon's troubles. When this or that Lebanese faction becomes increasingly bellicose, it is always (his italics) due to pressure or incitement by external forces". Like many statements about Lebanon, that one is at best a half truth. As Mr David McDowall explains in his excellent recent pamphlet, the bonds of loyalty that have traditionally counted in Lebanon are those of kinship and of religious identity, rather than those that bind the citizen to the state. Indeed, the state has never achieved full legitimacy in the eyes of many of its citizens. Had it done so, no doubt it would have been strong enough to hold the "external forces" at bay. As it is, virtually every Lebanese party has been willing to call an external force to its aid whenever the internal balance seems to be tipping against it.

Had no external aid been available, presumably by now either the internal forces would have fought each other to a standstill or one of them — or one combination of them — would

have succeeded in dominating the others. To that extent the ambassador is right. Increasing bellicosity, or at any rate continued bellicosity, is made possible by the availability of external aid, which of course is never offered in a purely disinterested way and can therefore be interpreted as "pressure or incitement".

But that is hardly a sufficient explanation for the behaviour of the assembled warlords in Lausanne. The main external supporters of the Lebanese Front (that is, the anti-Arab Lebanese nationalist Christians) in recent phases of the conflict, namely Israel and the United States, have effectively renounced any attempt to influence the outcome of the power struggle in Beirut. The main external supporter of the pro-Arab/anti-Phalangist camp in the same period, namely Syria, having achieved its immediate object (the abrogation of the May 17 Lebanese-Israeli agreement) has adopted a neutral position in the internal Lebanese conflict and is, genuinely it seems, seeking a negotiated peace rather than victory for one side in the civil war. Mr Abdul-Halim Khaddam, Syria's long-serving foreign minister and newly appointed vice-president, put forward compromise proposals which give neither side full satisfaction but strike an impartial observer as a fair and constructive compromise. At one moment all parties were thought ready to accept them. Yet the final session turned into a painful shouting-match and ended with all rushing back to their barricades.

The most disconcerting and perhaps most decisively disruptive behaviour was that of Mr Sulaiman Frangieh, who has

been clearly identified as a member of the pro-Arab anti-Phalangist camp at least since 1978, and for much longer than that has been closely associated with the Syrian regime. His support for the Syrian proposals might have been taken for granted, but instead he suddenly reverted to the position he took as President during the first phase of the civil war, in 1975-76, when he opposed any reduction in the powers of the presidency — an office which all agree should continue to be held by a Maronite Christian.

In 1976, while advocating minor constitutional change, the Syrians chose to support Mr Frangieh rather than countenance a victory for the "national movement" (leftists and Arab nationalists supported by the PLO) which might have driven the bulk of the Maronite community into the arms of Israel. Now, however, having more or less neutralized the Israeli factor and having asserted their own exclusive tutelage over the Arab nationalist camp, they seem convinced that peace requires at least an equal share of power for the Muslim majority.

The Syrian public posture in the next round of fighting may be one of neutrality. In practice this would probably mean that the Druze and Shiite militias receive enough equipment to inflict some further reverses on their Christian opponents, and certainly to match whatever the latter may obtain from Israel or the United States, but not enough to overturn the main Maronite strongholds. When a few more hundred, or thousand, Lebanese have been killed, perhaps the various parties will be ready to accept Mr Khaddam's proposals, or something like them. There is certainly no more convincing solution in sight.

Spectacular value

From Mr S. Bercow
Sir, Recent controversy about the cost of eyeglasses makes my experience relevant.
While on holiday in the Algarve last month I had the misfortune to lose my spectacles. Friends advised me to go to an optician (there are only two) in the nearby town of Vila Real de Santo Antonio.

He tested my sight immediately, offered me a wide choice of fashionable frames, had the spectacles ready for my collection, complete with attractive case, in 24 hours and conducted the transaction with courtesy and efficiency.
The cost? 1,950 escudos, which, as nearly as makes no difference, is £10 sterling.
It would appear that both practitioners and authorities in

Britain need to examine their positions and combine in an agreement that will release long-suffering members of the public in these islands from exploitation.
I am, Sir, yours truly,
S. BERKOW,
17 Farmleigh,
Southgate, N14.
March 19.

The making of a US president

From John Kentleton
Sir, Mr David Watt's article (March 16) with its crude headline, "What a way to pick a president", misrepresents the genius of the American system. This lies in openness to changing circumstances and the predisposition both to search for potential and reject as dispensable. It merely reflects natural evolution, which recognizes that each man may have his moment and his uses; and, if applied elsewhere, would prevent that stifling of creativity which those who hang on to power after their time are obliged to ensure.
Its two greatest moments of crisis produced Abraham Lincoln, apparently inferior to his rivals and Franklin Roosevelt, a cripple dismissed as a lightweight. It is only the professional governors who need to make a mystery of government.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN KENTLETON,
University of Liverpool,
Department of History,
8 Abercromby Square,
PO Box 147,
Liverpool,
March 16.

Youth training cuts

From Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, MP for Knowsley North (Labour)
Sir, Mr Nicholas Lyell QC, MP (March 10) argues that as only 55,000 of the 90,000 approved Mode B1 places in the Youth Training Scheme are currently occupied, the Government's cuts in the number of places will result in a better match to the demand.
Regrettably, however, the damage done by the reduction in Mode B1 places cannot be so easily dismissed, for four reasons.

First, the Youth Training Scheme only began in September. It is true that building up occupancy has been a problem for some schemes; but at this early stage they need support to build up their numbers rather than disruption of their work.
Secondly, a number of schemes which were only recently established and have just taken on their first few trainees inevitably have unoccupied places until they take on their full complement.
Thirdly, the demand for YTS places is not static; it has been increasing month by month and will undoubtedly continue to do so.
Fourthly, the cuts imposed on many valuable schemes are not simply paper ones but involve cutting the number of places to below the usual occupancy level.
Yours faithfully,
ROBERT KILROY-SILK,
House of Commons,
March 15.

Arrest in Poland

From Mr Dan Jacobson and others
Sir, We write to express our deep concern about the arrest of the Polish writer, Marek Nowakowski, whose book, *The Canary and Other Tales of Martial Law*, was published by the Harvill Press last year.

He is being investigated on charges of having cooperated with persons who represent Western organisations conducting activity harmful to the interests of the Polish state. This is an absurd accusation recalling Stalinist practices, while General Jaruzelski tries to create the impression of "normalisation" in Poland.
We implore the Polish authorities to release Marek Nowakowski and thus prevent a further deterioration in Western attitudes towards the Jaruzelski regime.

Yours etc,
DAN JACOBSON,
IRIS MURDOCH,
V. S. PRITCHETT,
STEPHEN SPENDER,
TOM STOPPARD,
Index on Censorship,
39c Highbury Place, N5,
March 15.

Therapy by cobwebs

From Professor Sir William Paton, FRCS
Sir, Mr Levin's "A plague on all their palliatives", on March 2, with its one-sided view of "Nature", requires further comment.
Warfarin (the most generally useful drug active by mouth for preventing thrombosis), DDT (that broke the Naples typhus epidemic), penicillin (that virtually abolished deaths from puerperal fever) and Valium (important for pathological anxiety) are hardly mere "palliatives".

Nor does the inventiveness of Nature (man) fail to match the subtleties of Nature (bacteria and the like). Resistance to chemotherapy has been recognized for 80 years; but the therapeutic revolution took place just the same, because solutions were found.

The successors to M & B 693, penicillin and streptomycin have shown that the capacity of bacteria to generate resistance is not unlimited; and "molecular" biology is showing how to outwit the protozoa. That Mr Levin's pen should join those calling us back to therapy by cobwebs (and a death rate of 50 per cent in the first year of life) is a sad disservice to the cause of improving health care, when one sees all that is still to be done, especially for the Third World.

Perhaps he may read more and rethink. If so, I would be happy to meet him on March 1, 1994, to compare notes — our mutual expectation of life now extends that far. The Lamb & Flag in St Giles, £200 sharp.
Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM PATON,
University of Oxford,
Department of Pharmacology,
South Parks Road,
Oxford,
March 15.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Some advantages of local radio

From Professor Alan Day
Sir, Mr Whitney, the Director General of the IBA, argues (March 14) that pirate radio stations operating outside the law threaten the provision of a viable local radio service of quality and balance. But he fails to demonstrate that a proliferation of small, legally operated stations such as exists in France would have the same effect. Indeed, I have no doubt whatsoever that the overall quality, balance and, most of all, range of choice are all much higher in Paris, with its 54 licensed local stations, than in London, with only three. (In each capital, these are in addition to the national networks.)
In Paris the local stations include some devoted primarily to serious discussion of current events, others to classical music, others to the interests of ethnic and religious groups; and a majority is devoted to different kinds of popular music, appealing to a range of tastes which the British system cannot begin to satisfy.
Frequencies are available and could be made available here on a scale comparable with that found abroad. The cost of equipping and manning a station which can provide an entirely viable service is almost ludicrously small. Reasonable rates of pay should apply, but not necessarily on the manning

levels which British trade unions currently regard as appropriate. I agree with Mr Whitney that copyright fees should be paid, but on a scale commensurate with the audience and without the imposition of the pernicious restrictive practices of needle time.
The key point, which Mr Whitney appears not to understand, is that the technology and economics of small-scale local radio provide unmatched opportunities for innovation and diversity in the provision of entertainment, culture and information. Why should these facilities be so grossly under-exploited?

Lastly, it should be borne in mind that the programmes are so cheap to provide that there is no need for finance from advertising. The French local stations do not carry any advertisements and are supported by voluntary contributions and voluntary labour.
Given the opportunity here, I have no doubt that voluntary groups — religious, ethnic or political, or others, such as universities or aficionados of particular kinds of music — could exploit opportunities which currently are open only to those who break the law, with considerable sympathy from Yours faithfully,
ALAN DAY,
9 Bingham Street, N1.

Future of Hong Kong

From Mr John Walden
Sir, The Sino-British negotiations on the future of Hong Kong have now been going on for almost 18 months. From the very outset official spokesmen of the three governments repeatedly promised that they would seek the views of the people of Hong Kong on their future. They also gave clear public assurances that the arrangements being made to supersede Crown Colony Government in 1997, would be satisfactory to the people of Hong Kong.

If generally accepted meanings are ascribed to the words used in these two undertakings the implications are obvious. To honour them it is first necessary to carry out a systematic and open survey of public opinion, to ensure that all who wish to state a view have an opportunity to do so.
It is then necessary to publish, in draft, proposals for the system of government in Hong Kong after 1997 and invite the public's comment on them.

Finally, because Hong Kong has neither broad-based political parties nor fully democratic institutions to represent the public, it will be necessary to hold a referendum on the amended proposals to ascertain their acceptability.
Unfortunately, up to the present there has been no indication that the three governments are going to accept the implications implicit in the promises of "consultation" and "consensus". The British and Hong Kong governments have actively discouraged public discussion of the 1997 question: in the Legislative Council and even in the partially elected district boards, although these were set up only

recently to reflect the concerns and aspirations of ordinary people. So much for the promise of consultation.

As for "consensus", the possibility of a referendum on the arrangements agreed between Britain and China was ruled out by the Hong Kong Government early in 1983.

The Peking Government, on the other hand, went to a great deal of trouble to demonstrate that it wanted consultation of a kind with Hong Kong people. Over the past 18 months many Hong Kong citizens and organizations have been invited to Peking, or were consulted in Hong Kong. The contacts were selective, and those most influential in business and the professions were preferred.

The impression given is that the Peking Government's idea of consultation is to seek support for Peking's preconceived plans rather than to seek an accommodation with the views of Hong Kong people although, to be quite fair, the Peking Government has shown that it is not unwilling to tailor those plans to suit Hong Kong's free-wheeling lifestyle.

Sooner or later members of Parliament will have to vote on proposals put before them on the future of Hong Kong. If they wish to be sure that these proposals take into account the views of the people of Hong Kong, they should press now for an independent commission of enquiry to ascertain what those views are. Clearly, this task cannot safely be entrusted to the three governments concerned.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WALDEN,
St John's College,
University of Hong Kong,
82 Pokfulam Road,
Hong Kong.

A Polish rejoinder

From Mr Michael Thomas
Sir, Mr Richard Lamb's letter (February 25) draws attention to the relationship between Montgomery and the Poles. Montgomery's signal lacks all credibility for anyone who had worked with the Polish forces during the war (I was a liaison officer with 1st Polish Armoured Division during the campaign in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany).

Throughout their history the Poles have been known for their outstanding and sometimes outrageous gallantry. However, their relationship with Montgomery was ill-starred from the outset.
As General Maczek, Commander of the 1st Polish Armoured Division, records in his book, *Avec mes Blindés*: When Montgomery first inspected the Polish forces training in Scotland he asked me: "Which language do you actually speak at home, German or Russian?"

After Yalta, where the Allies were forced to accept Stalin's demand for almost half of Poland's territory, the British High Command became worried whether the Polish forces could still be trusted to continue to fight loyally.

Warfarin asked Maczek for lunch. Maczek told him that he came from Lwow, now to be ceded to the Russians.
Montgomery interrupted him, laughing: "All the better. You will now be a Soviet general."

Maczek's reply was icy: "Although it would be difficult to establish any comparison between the Polish and the Russian armies (on the one hand) and between the British and American armies (on the

other), what would you say if I offered you the rank of general in the American army?" Montgomery blushed.

When Montgomery visited the Polish headquarters at Breda during the winter of 1944-45 the Field Marshal was given the Polish order *virtuti militari* fifth class! Small wonder in the circumstances.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL THOMAS,
Blumenstrasse 5,
2000 Hamburg 60,
Federal Republic of Germany.

Rates levy on moorings

From Mr Hugh Robinson
Sir, The Commodore of the Woodbridge Cruising Club (March 6) needs a bit of support after being slapped down by John Charman (March 10) as he brings out into the open a threat which is causing concern to yachtsmen all around our coasts.

Although it is suggested that moorings have been rateable since 1967 and that rates have never been collected because of the insuperable difficulties of actually doing this, I suggest that this is not the only reason.

The fact is that the local authorities provide no facilities whatsoever to boats on moorings, except possibly policing, no rubbish collection, no services, no car parks, no street lighting, to name but a few of the facilities provided for the rates we all, or rather most of us, pay.

The councils must realize this. Yours faithfully,
HUGH ROBINSON, Commodore,
Emsworth Sailing Club,
55 Bath Road,
Emsworth, Hampshire.

Church and remarriage

From the Reverend Alan Wilson
Sir, Is Chancellor Moore (March 1) serious in thinking that his is the one "centuries-old doctrine" within the Church of England? He might have been behooved for suggesting such a thing in 1533. The Church has never sought to minister to any group of sinners, except divorcees, by a mixture of private acceptance and public exclusion.

For example, she has made it plain, Sunday by Sunday since 1552, that Holy Communion is exclusively for those who "truly and earnestly repent of their sins and are in love and charity with their neighbours". Perhaps this ideal is one which some communicants have on occasion failed to realise. Yet the Church's standard of teaching survives and offers every communicant an untarnished aspiration.
The ideal would be subverted, not by letting failures in, but by changing the words of the service. Would it have been more fully

realised if, instead of adopting a permissive, charitable, and realistic approach, the Church had decided to summarily excommunicate anybody who did not appear to measure up to her standard?

The Church must take the theological facts of life seriously. Tension between aspiration and reality is actually a part of practical Christianity. It may be illogical that, in Christian lives and marriages, being children of God, "we do not yet appear to be what we are" (1 John 3.2); but you cannot dispose of the tension by administering stiff doses of the rules to a few groups of obvious sinners.

To live with such tension is the work of grace, not law. To minister to all sinners, privately and in public, by the consistent application of Grace is the work of a real Church.
Yours etc,
ALAN WILSON,
St John's House,
9 South View Avenue, Caversham,
Reading, Berkshire.

Research benefits from Antarctica

From Mr G. de Q. Robin
Sir, Discussions of "Rights in Antarctica" (Evan Luard, March 17) and "Unity of interests in Antarctica" (Sir Donald Logan, February 23) tend to neglect a major benefit to man of Antarctic research.
Initiatives for much of the research in this remote area come from the scientific community through the non-governmental International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). This body organised the International Geophysical Year of 1957-58 which, thanks to support from many governments, stepped up Antarctic research to its present level and led to the Antarctic Treaty.
Since the IGY various global research programmes related to man and his environment have been organised by ICSU, often in collaboration with UN agencies. The Antarctic component of such programmes is assessed by ICSU's Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, whose members in turn pass its recommendations on to their own governments.
International science and the world in general owe much to Antarctic Treaty governments for supporting this research. Hopefully the Antarctic representatives will take the opportunity to express their appreciation when the next UN General Assembly debates the "question of Antarctica".
Yours sincerely,
G. de Q. ROBIN (UK delegate,
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research),
Scott Polar Research Institute,
University of Cambridge,
Lensfield Road,
Cambridge,
March 19.

Westminster milestone

From Mr Colin Robertson
Sir, In the Palazzo Pubblico in Siena there are two magnificent frescoes by Ambrogio Lorenzetti — "The Allegory of Good Government" and "The Allegory of Bad Government". The former shows scenes of harmony, industry and general well-being while the latter depicts discord and devastation.

Present local government policies in Westminster, which include library closures, the disposal of cemeteries, of Caxton Hall, of architects and of cleaners, the withdrawal of necessary funds from many voluntary organisations, the closure of children's homes and the underprovision of home helps to those in need, would make it appear that 400 years on we have little reason in Westminster to celebrate "an Act for the good Government of the City and Borough of Westminster" (letter, March 19).

Yours sincerely,
COLIN ROBERTSON (Secretary,
National Union of Public Employees,
Westminster Branch District Committee),
29 Lancaster Road, W11,
March 19.

Wilton art bid

From the Director of the J. Paul Getty Museum
Sir, I should like to comment on an item of February 24, headlined "Getty bid for Wilton art refused". The story, we feel, carries the implication that the J. Paul Getty Museum has been employing dealers to persuade Lord Pembroke to sell art treasures from his collection.

This is not true. We do not use agents of any kind to act on our behalf in the acquisition of works of art, nor have we done so. We are aware that some dealers may, for their own reasons, choose to give a contrary impression, but it is difficult to see how we can prevent this.

Whether Lord Pembroke is planning to dispose of part of his collection is a matter for him to decide. We have not approached him nor asked anyone to do so on our behalf; nor have we received an offer from him.
Thus there was no Getty bid for Wilton art, as stated in your headline, and consequently no refusal.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN WALSH, Director,
The J. Paul Getty Museum,
PO Box 2112,
Santa Monica,
California 90406, USA,
March 2.

Abolition of surcharge

From Mr D. G. Lindsay
Sir, Having, rightly, abolished the investment income surcharge on the grounds that it was an "unfair and anomalous tax on savings and on the rewards of successful enterprise", why did the Chancellor not go on also to abolish the distinction between "investment" and "earned" income in relation to married women?

To leave married women now as the only category penalized for having investment income is unfair and discriminatory.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID G. LINDSAY,
36 Orchard Coombe,
Whitchurch Hill,
Berkshire,
March 16.

Comparative values

From Mr J. C. Nowell-Smith
Sir, Before the Budget it was rumoured that VAT would be levied on newspapers. It now seems that the rumour has been substantiated to the extent that the contents of newspapers worth digesting (if not) are to be subject to the tax at 15 per cent but *The Times* remains zero-rated.
Yours faithfully,
JOHN NOWELL-SMITH,
21 Seymour Walk, SW10,
March 19.

THE ARTS

Television Playboy in the evening

Marilyn Cole's only rival for the affections of the former Playboy Club boss Victor Lowmes is an Amazonian monkey, Dulcie. Marilyn thinks Dulcie is spiteful but it is not a big thing. She knows Mr Lowmes' affections used to be much more widespread.

Lowmes admitted in the concluding interview in BBC1's series *The Other Half* last night that he had "bagged a number of bunnies". When he met Marilyn, who had left a £15-a-week job in a Portsmouth Co-op fuel office to become a £45-a-week bunny in 1971, he already had a girl and a pair of twins living in his house. It was her first day and he shyly issued an invitation to a date through his secretary.

His strategy then was to have one girl more or less visible and a number in the background. Marilyn moved in but moved out seven years later. "I missed your limousines", she told him last night. She survived without them for five years. Then Lowmes, 20 years her senior at 55, had some bad luck. He fell off his horse and was fired from the club.

It was a time for re-appraisal. He found himself comparing his relationship with Marilyn with others, a process, one imagines, that must have taken some time. Two years ago, former bunny and former boss were together again in the Hertfordshire mansion, once Earl Grey's, which also serves as a country club. They also have a house in Chelsea where he has a restaurant.

Sitting in the Hertfordshire jacuzzi with the foaming waters and the whirl of *Bohème*, they looked a picture of non-nuptial bliss. He thinks she has a winning personality; she thinks he has a great presence and, after a slight hesitation, accepted the interviewer John Piffman's word, "charisma". Lowmes thinks he has it, too, and said so a couple of times.

Marilyn did not feel a kept woman. "He doesn't give me enough money", she joked, but admitted that whatever she asked for "he normally gives it to me". Lowmes, who was divorced 30 years ago, was, she said, a very moral man. "That's why he didn't get married. He couldn't take the vows." Her family respected her privacy. She recalled that, when she appeared as a full-frontal nude in *Playboy*, her mother had merely commented on how nice her hair looked. Grandmother has been slightly more intrusive, has asked if she were "still going with that old man".

Lowmes said he was reliant on his personal life now, felt his responsibility, and had changed his will "so Marilyn is now an heiress". She was devoted to him and knew she had his undivided loyalty and affection.

Marriage flickered in and out in the programme, which might have appeared aptly under the *Wildlife* on One title, and Lowmes felt he had gone so far that he had "proposed on television". "I think next year would be nice, don't you?", he asked Mr Piffman who, wisely perhaps, kept his counsel.

Dennis Hackett

The Dresser, which opens in London this week, has already provided a further boost for British cinema and for its director, Peter Yates: interview by John Preston

Growing out of the great tradition

For the third year running the British have mustered a strong presence in the Oscar nominations. Talk of a revival in our national film fortunes must remain guarded at home, but in Hollywood the British are reckoned to have hit a substantial winning streak. Top of this year's list with five nominations is *The Dresser*, starring Albert Finney (who won the Silver Bear for his part in it at this year's Berlin Festival) and Tom Courtenay, adapted by Ronald Harwood from his own play and directed by Peter Yates. It opens this week after the Royal Premiere attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Hugely popular in the theatre (it has been performed in more than 20 countries), *The Dresser* still seems an unlikely candidate for the sort of commercial success it is currently enjoying in America. At least, it would be a brave producer who confidently expected handsome returns from a story about the relationship between an ageing theatrical knight and his dresser, set, for the most part, in a dressing room in wartime Bradford. Yet Yates, who prudently produced as well as directed the film, says that, while he is gratified by the scale of its success, he is not especially surprised. "Americans really love to watch good performances by British actors and here I think they have got two great ones. Besides, it's very well written and it's the sort of story, both funny and moving, that people can relate to irrespective of their nationality. I think there is a very large audience, especially in America, who want to go to films which they can listen to as well as look at."

This is the second time in four years that a film of Yates' has picked up five Oscar nominations - the first was *Breaking Away* in 1980. Other British directors may have cultivated higher profiles but few, if any, can match his track record. Resident in America for much of his career (he went out in 1967 at the invitation of Steve McQueen to direct *Bullitt* and stayed 14 years), Yates has been spending more time in England of late. He came back first to direct the fantasy epic *Kull*, which was quickly followed by *The Dresser*.

The two films could hardly be more different: one cluttered with elaborate special effects, the other fizzing with more homespun verbal pyrotechnics. But then Yates has always tried to

stretch himself as much as possible within the commercial mainstream, while remaining steadfastly resistant to flights of self-indulgence. Now in the rare and enviable position of being able to pick his projects at will, Yates had been looking to make a film with a theatrical setting for some time. "Having trained at RADA and having had an uncle who was an actor-manager, I really wanted to repay what I had got from the theatre. If the film encourages more people to go to the theatre than I will feel as if I have really achieved something."

Nevertheless, Yates was distinctly wary of adapting a play for the cinema. His second feature film, back in 1964, was a screen version of N. F. Simpson's *One Way Pendulum*, and since then he had deliberately steered clear of anything that had started life on stage. "Ronnie Harwood and I sat down and talked very hard for two days before we made a final decision that there was a film here. I didn't want to find myself making something that could be made far more cheaply and efficiently for television. I had to be sure that there were ways of using images to tell the story and not just words. Once I was confident about that, we both agreed that the one thing we weren't going to do was to produce a little piece of nostalgia: a homage to the English theatre as it was. That would have been dreadfully cute and rather like wallowing in a theatrical print shop. Instead we wanted to say that these traditions may have passed but we should learn from them and grow."

For a director used to tackling elaborate action sequences and marshalling hordes of extras before his cameras, *The Dresser* with its small cast and modest budget might be thought to have presented comparatively few problems. On the contrary, Yates insists that it was the most difficult film he has ever made. "I could never have made *The Dresser* when I made *Bullitt*. One needs to be far more experienced as a director. The way in which one controls the audience has got to be exactly right otherwise the film could have been a catastrophe. All the elements have got to be very carefully balanced. You also had to make quite certain that none of the actors fell into excess. It's the hardest thing in the



Yates directing *The Dresser*, which he insists was the most difficult film he has ever made

world for an actor to play a ham because it's so much fun."

However, Yates was able to draw on his own spell as an actor in rep. It may not have lasted long - he got such bad notices that he decided to become a racing driver instead - but the experience stood him in good stead. "I certainly didn't have to do as much research as usual. One knew instinctively what was right and what was wrong. But then so did all of us. It was rather like five doctors making a hospital film; we had a pretty good idea of what belonged where."

An engaging, unflappable man, Yates leads a curious peripatetic existence, going where the work takes him, with brief stopovers in his large, Knightsbridge-house. "I feel like a tea planter much of the time. I do my stint on the plantation and come back to England every so often for my leave." Not that

Yates allows himself much leave. "I always worry that if I ever stop I might not start again." His next film, based on Nicholas Gage's best seller *Eleni*, is due to start shooting in Greece in August and Yates hopes that it will be followed by another project with Ronald Harwood.

In the meantime, there is the success of *The Dresser* to be savoured. Yates, not normally much of a one for self-congratulation, admits to giving way to the odd twinge of pride. "What gives me the greatest kick is that it should be a low-budget film and not some multimillion dollar affair. I believe that in England we can make reasonable budget films of very high quality better than anyone else. People said to me when *Breaking Away* came out, and was nominated, 'Why can't you come and do this over here?' Well, I think what's rather nice is that now we have."

Theatre in the United States Haven of promise

America's truly national theatre rests in the network of professional companies which established themselves throughout the country in the Sixties and Seventies. The Eighties have introduced another welcome development - the restoration of old or erection of new performing arts complexes as part of our cities' efforts to rescue their urban centres from decay. Whether communities will support so much art activity is unproven, but sponsors hope to bring back older and lure younger audiences to live entertainment.

A fine example of successful regional theatres co-existing with a new arts centre may emerge in New Haven, Connecticut. Just two hours from Manhattan by road or rail, New Haven was once known as "The Birthplace of the Nation's Arts". From opening in 1914 until closing in 1977, its Shubert Theatre presented more than double the pre-Broadway try-outs of any other playhouse, and an illustrious array of concert artists. Restored to its former cream-walled, rose-curtained grandeur, with a three-story lobby area expanded to accommodate diverse events, the theatre recently reopened as the Shubert Performing Arts Center.

The occasion was celebrated with a rousing one-time-only show, *While the Shubert Slept*, featuring 14 Broadway stars, the American Dance Machine and the New Haven Symphony Orchestra performing songs from Broadway hits from the Shubert's seven such years. One of the merriest moments came when George Rose sang lyrics added to his *Pirates of Penzance* patter classic. "This is the very model of a modern major theatre". In its first months, the new complex will host touring plays and musicals, a classical music series, a Brazilian carnival ball and even a travelogue series to attract audiences.

The Yale Repertory Theatre has so pleased its audiences that it is adding a week to its runs next season to accommodate subscribers. Formed as an adjunct to the Yale Drama School in 1966, the professional company offers a full season of classical and modern plays (often with Broadway and film stars) and there is a series of student productions in which future stars may be cutting their teeth. Among productions originated by the Rep and transferred to Broadway have been Arthur Koplin's *Wings* and Athol Fugard's *A Lesson From Ales* and *Master Harold and the Boys*. In May, YRT will mount the world premiere of Fugard's new play, *The Road to Mecca*.

Lloyd Richards, the Rep's artistic director and the school's Dean since 1978, is a major influence in the develop-

ment of new American playwrights. Also artistic director of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's annual National Playwrights Conference (whose alumni include Sam Shepard and Lanford Wilson), Dean Richards established Yale Rep's Winterfest of new dramatists four years ago. Given professional productions (one of which, this year, featured James Earl Jones), works run in repertory for seven weeks. During this period, their authors are encouraged to continue developing the plays as they observe how their visions are filtered through performance and audience reaction.

Because the plays are considered works-in-process, critics are asked not to review but only to describe them. This policy may save some budding dramatists pain, but the 1984 Winterfest staff need not have worried, as all three offerings presented authors with distinct, well-modulated and absorbing voices. In Philip Bosakowski's fantasy *Chopin in Space* a character representing the Polish composer and Lech Walesa went on a journey through time which intermingled incidents from Chopin's life with events in Poland's history. Michael Quinn's *The Sweet Life* was a naturalistic drama about workers in a candy factory, and Russell Davis's *The Day of the Picnic* mixed comedy and terror when an African witch doctor infiltrated an American nursing home in search of revenge.

New Haven's second regional playhouse, the Long Wharf Theatre, near its twentieth season playing to record subscriber as well as to New York audiences. In the past year alone, Long Wharf productions of *A View From the Bridge* and *American Buffalo* have enjoyed runs on Broadway, and *Quartermaine's Terms* off-Broadway. The theatre's most recent production, staged by its artistic director, Arvin Brown, may also move to New York. The premiere of the television writer Rod Serling's original stage version of *Requiem for a Heavyweight*, it boasted a good performance by Richard Dreyfuss as a steady manager and a great one by John Lithgow as an unsuccessful heavyweight.

Best known to film audiences as the transvestite in *The World According to Garp*, John Lithgow is also a Tony-winner (for *The Changing Room*, a 1973 Long Wharf transfer to Broadway). In his portrayal of the fighter who must find a place for himself outside the ring, he was like a bull mustering his last reserves of courage to travel through a china shop. With a powerful supporting cast, the late Mr Serling's 1956 drama played as more up-to-date than period in its depiction of men who must learn new skills to survive.

Holly Hill

Broadcast concert Essential pulse

LPO/Tennstedt
Festival Hall/Radio 3

The London Philharmonic and Klaus Tennstedt are soon to take Tuesday night's Mozart and Mahler programme to Hongkong and Japan. Audiences there will doubtless be of those in the Festival Hall almost certainly booked for Mahler, but the significance of the programme's little opening serenade, Mozart's "Haffner" Symphony should not be underestimated.

It was illuminating simply for what it revealed about aspects of Tennstedt's perceptive and creative methods. Pervading each movement was a strong, tugging sense of rhythm as it were behind the pulse: the presence of a pulse which regulated tempo and, seemingly intuitively, selected and subordinated detail.

This approach blossomed out as the central, if subconscious, generative force of his Mahler Fifth Symphony. For it is precisely Tennstedt's ability to find that essential pulse and, through it, a correspondence of accent, notation and instrumentation, which enables him to recreate that most difficult of all things: Mahler's uniquely multilayered tones of voice.

It leads him, for instance, to find the ache and lurch of the waltz even within the beat of a funeral march; it sharpens his ears to the significance of a trumpet's fanfare triplet to its juddering, rasping echo in the nerve of timpani or solo viola, or to its manic metamorphoses in the second movement. It enables him, too, to take what would, in other hands, be at best risks, at worst indulgences: the sliding of the strings into momentary near-dislocation in the Scherzo's inner waltz, or the laying bare of points of orchestration within the cool grandeur of his Adagietto.

The reason Mahler always works for Tennstedt is that in the core of his nervous sensibility and as self-examining spectator. And that, for all the sometimes over-head detail of his readings, is something that, in the years ahead, London must never be tempted to take for granted.

Hilary Finch

New music Full up on top

Fires of London
Queen Elizabeth Hall

You do, it is true, meet the strangest people on buses. But if you were ever to turn around and find yourself in the jolting company of a cardinal, a jester, a middle-aged woman indulging in sexual fantasies and a pair of Mormon missionaries, only one conclusion would be possible: you had stepped into a music-theatre piece by Peter Maxwell Davies. So beware.

The fact that *The No 11 Bus* speaks so loudly of its creator, not to mention the Creator, says much about its quality. What Davies has produced is a vehicle, so to speak, for many of the things that have preoccupied him in the theatre for the past two decades: they flit across the stage as passengers come and go on a rather crazily-mocked-up version of the No 11 from Liverpool Street to Hammersmith.

Perhaps this is by now inevitable, since the new work is the ninth full-scale piece of music-theatre Davies has written for the Fires of London. But the pointers to other works are too nagging and naughty to be discounted as a mere residue.

Most prominently, *The No 11 Bus* is a skit on *Vesali's Icons*, featuring again a black resurrection to the absurd rhythm of a foxtrot, and developing once more out of a set of engraved images: not anatomical drawings this time but tarot cards. To *Tavernier* we owe the fooling of the cardinal, the exposure of the pope and the preacher's self-delusion that he has tapped the hotline to God and found the means to save the world. Then the work ends, as *Eight Songs for a Mad King* had done, with a jailer drummer to send us all out into the asylum of the real world.

If it be complained that these are in-jokes, one could argue that Davies has earned the right to take his earlier works as read; the presence of a capacity audience for this premiere would support the contention. The important point is that so many parodies of parodies betray a lack of confidence in the genre. Davies' serious thoughts are now going into sonatas and symphonies, while music-theatre, even the style of music-theatre that was so crucial to him 15 years ago, is now a medium for the satyr play, the ritual and sometimes also touching entertainment.

Which would be all very well if the piece did not also seek to embrace the archetypal char-

acter, a figure with whom Davies patently has very much less familiarity than he has with Antichrist, Dante and renaissance magic. Mary Thomas struggles gamely with the role, which has nothing of the intense character of the paired dances of the first half. They were disappointingly dimly projected under Gunther Bauer-Schenk, but they provide music well worth salvaging from the rest.

Paul Griffiths

Arditti Quartet
Purcell Room

There was disappointment for those looking forward to hearing quartets by Bush, Cowie and Hoddinott in the latest of the Park Lane Group's British String Quartet series on Tuesday: the Medici Quartet had had to cancel because of an injury to their viola player. But the compensation proved handsome, for the Arditti Quartet stepped in with a remarkable programme of music by Brian Ferneyhough, Jonathan Harvey and the young Britten. (The original programme is to be given later.)

Ferneyhough's Second Quartet (1980) perpetrates its composer's penchant for bemusing complexity, though from this performance one might be forgiven for thinking that playing it was a simple matter. Despite the elusiveness of its message, the work's violent, hammering rhetoric draws the listener towards and under its surface, just as in late Beethoven, a comparison Ferneyhough would surely relish. But it is perhaps the calmer, softer ending, as well as the intermittent silences, that give the vital clues to its meaning.

In contrast, Harvey's Quartet, a work of Messiaen-like spiritualism, presents all the answers at the beginning. Despite the negation of time and space created at the outset by the insistence upon a single pitch and its manifold harmonics, this is no minimalist exercise. Instead, a simple tune is subjected to a variety of assaults and transformations, with Harvey adopting something of the manner of recent Stockhausen. A far and beautiful cry indeed from the Quartet of Britten, written in 1930 and suggesting that Berg would have had a staunch admirer in his hands had Britten studied with him in Vienna as intended.

Stephen Pettitt

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Some Kind of Hero Croydon Warehouse

A black soldier in Belfast: if combining two subjects of such massive dramatic potential seems calculated, the result in Les Smith's play inspires such respect that you are sure it was not Private James (Brian

Theatre in Britain

Bovell) awaits court-martial after shooting his young, white, Southhurst-trained commanding officer. Explicable, certainly, but the absence of surprise turns out to matter very little.

For two-thirds of the play, however, Private James keeps up a barrage of fatuous jokes which is no more bearable for being plainly a form of defence through attack. He never leaves the stage (naturally) and seldom shuts up, while his defence counsel (Corin Redgrave) waits politely and an Irish psychiatrist (Eileen Pollock) smiles in some affection.

The scenes with his staff sergeant (Peter Rutherford) are worst of all, the pert humorist confronting a similarly relentless onslaught of demands that the filthy nigger jungle-bunny clean up his cage.

The doctor, though, is a real old pro and the trick of holding a patient's silence, when one final occurs, starts a breakthrough. Mr Bovell, till then blazing with energy and rant, shows his special gift for conveying intolerable pain.

He begins with the job's

never-ending tension and fear, but then suddenly he is talking of constant racial insults and harassment inside and outside the Army, of "becoming a nigger" (as he strikingly says) in Handsworth at age 11, when the election in Smeethwick seat door started the muck flying that tension and fear, too, never lets up. The little things hurt most: remembering to avoid London SW6 if Chelsea are playing at home.

This scene is worth waiting for. Equally heartfelt, though coolly rational, is the doctor's account of what Belfast pressures do to people, the psychological shifts that are the price of coping.

Though James himself comes to insist fiercely that he killed an abused black, not a mind-blown squaddie, so eloquent and understanding is this speech as delivered by Eileen Pollock that its effect persists through an otherwise unambiguous conclusion. Joseph Charles's strong direction shares the credit.

Anthony Masters

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Through the 900 level to the great blue yonder

Better measures of stock market prices may have been invested but yesterday's rise in the familiar traditional FT 30 share index through 900 for the first time is an event, it reflects the clear air of confidence in the City.

Share prices have been shooting ahead this year. The infant SE 100 has already recorded a rise of almost 13 per cent. The FT 30 reached the then unprecedented 800 mark only 10 weeks ago and buoyant dealers are already willing it on to the millennial 1,000 by early summer - a time which often marks a seasonal peak.

The pace and extent of changes in equity prices are more a matter of mood rather than calculation. Yet if the doubling of share prices since the start of the current bull market in January 1981 may seem extravagant, in a market that takes an essentially short-term view, it is the direction of the underlying forces that counts on most counts these forces still look favourable.

Historically, stock market prices have reflected the interplay between interest rates and the trend of company profits, adjusted for political upsets and reassurances. In recent years, especially since the abolition of exchange control in November 1979, the foreign exchange market has also become an important influence. All four fundamentals - interest rates, corporate profits, politics and sterling - are giving the stock market thumbs up.

After lagging long behind the decline in the inflation rate, mainly because of the exploding US financial deficit, domestic interest rates have again started moving down. Given the high level of real interest rates, there is still scope for further reductions in the medium term, if all goes well.

Results from top companies - from oil

and chemicals to engineering, as well as the more expected growth sectors - are still showing a strong uptrend in profits. Pleasant surprises outnumber shocks, like of Rockware. Future profits growth may be less dramatic than during the recovery phase, but there is every reason to think that it will remain strong, representing genuine internal progress and not simply inflation.

Mr Nigel Lawson's first Budget was a bonus, which produced important tax benefits for the stock market on stamp duty, the investment income surcharge and, with mixed results, corporation tax. Just as important, the Budget portended further general tax cuts as well as reforms in capital gains tax in the remaining budgets of this parliament.

The position of sterling is more problematic. After all, the pound reached a record low against the dollar in early January and the effective exchange rate is still weak. However, the general background has improved, with the dollar seemingly well over the top. Anyone preparing to jump on to the share bandwagon at this later stage should however, keep constant weather eye on the foreign exchanges.

The more certain test for the continuance of this bull market is nearer home. Starting from late spring, the cash flow of the big institutions will be met by wave of big new issues from Reuters and Mirror Group Newspapers to British Telecom, with the airlines just waiting for a place in the queue.

Whether or not the FT index makes it to 1,000 - and such rapid rises as we are seeing invariably produce short-term, profit-taking reactions - the old adage "sell in May and go away" is worth remembering. The situation can always be reassessed on Derby Day.

Return from the Tombs

The Bank of England's industrial lifeboat is a shadowy operation, in sharp contrast to the secondary banking rescue which was conducted in the glare of press and market comment. However a navigation light can occasionally be seen. Yesterday the market even heard the cry of the do'sun, as Sir Francis Tombs, a Drake-like chairman of Turner & Newall, told how Britain's troubled asbestos mining and industrial products giant had performed during 1983. He had a good story to tell.

Pretax profits for the year to December 31 were £12.5m, compared with losses in 1982 of £19.3m. Total dividends for the year, after the recommended final of 0.75p, amount to 1p (0.25p), and Sir Francis is forecasting a jump in 1984 profits of not less than 50 per cent. Analysts yesterday slotted in a possible pretax figure of £21m, which yields prospective earnings of 11½p, and at 94p, a target multiple of around eight.

The summarised group balance sheet which accompanied the profit figures demonstrates the scale of the turnaround. Net borrowings have fallen from £139m to £57m; present liabilities are down roughly £100m to £186m; and the ratio of net debt to equity is down to 23 per cent from 55 per cent.

Sir Francis, a Wedgwood Benn groupie and former chairman of the Electricity Council until he resigned in 1980, spelled out details of the drastic surgery which brought the cure. Businesses have been sold, notably the stake in Hunt Chemical last March, and divestments raised £63m. Capital investment was trimmed to £4m. The British workforce fell from 12,000 to 9,400, and in the first half at least the group indulged in a savage bout of destocking. The net effect was an increase in trading profits from £12m to £23m.

As a result Turner & Newall should leave the lifeboat sooner rather than later. That, at least, is one interpretation of the chairman's comment yesterday that the credit agreement with the banks, negotiated at the end of 1982 when Sir Francis was headhunted for the job by the Bank of

England, expires in December 1984 but he hoped to terminate it well before that date.

To an extent, the Turner & Newall shareprice has kept pace with the group's improving fortunes. Down some 6p yesterday on the figures to 94p, the present level is still a long way above the end-1982 quotation of 23p. And thereby hangs a tale.

Sir Francis negotiated a fairly extraordinary deal with the Prudential, Turner's only large institutional shareholder, two years ago, as his price for heading the rescue team.

He arranged an option to buy 500,000 shares at 23p in three tranches over three years. Last November, he drew down the first tranche of 166,000 shares. In addition, and in a separate arrangement with the bankers in the lifeboat, Sir Francis negotiated a fee over three years related to any increase more than 23p in the price of a notional 2 million shares in the group, up to a ceiling of 50p. He has collected the first third of the fee, which was worth £180,000.

A new daily column analysing company performance and market trends begins in *The Times* tomorrow.

On the face of it, Sir Francis stands to collect just under £1m. But as he points out himself, the net value of the deal, after tax, is worth a mere £360,000, which spread over three years, is just £120,000 a year. Moreover, the Inland Revenue will take over £500,000.

The Prudential has seen a stake which looked like a write-off appreciate in value by around £4m., while the institutions as a whole, and many new ones apparently have appeared on the shareholders list, have participated in an improvement in Turner & Newall's market worth since December 1982 of around £80m.

To paraphrase Earl Macmillan, the operation has been good for Sir Francis, good for the Prudential, good for the investment community, including the lifeboat - and also fairly cheap.

N Sea warning to Sun Oil after order goes abroad

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The British subsidiary of the world's largest oil company, Esso, yesterday announced a big investment programme in the North Sea, as the Government criticized another "American oil company for ordering North Sea equipment from abroad."

The Government's determination to extract maximum benefit from its North Sea oil assets was underlined by a warning yesterday to the 10th largest oil company in the United States, which is being seen as a threat that could ultimately be challenged in the international courts.

Sun Oil of Dallas, which is also the 18th largest corporation in the United States, has confirmed that the rig to operate its Balmoral field will be built in Gothenburg, Sweden. British Shipbuilders had hoped that its Cammell Laird yard on Merseyside would secure the £111m order. Confirmation of the order to Gotaverken of Sweden, says British Shipbuilders, means the yard's ship closure.



Archie Forster: pledge on spending in Britain

Sun Oil placed the order two weeks ago - the first time that a British oil-field production rig has been built abroad - after tenders from British yards. The company argues that by going abroad the Balmoral project can be kept on schedule, and £280m-worth of the £400m total investment will come to Britain. Two hundred staff are to be recruited in Aberdeen for the project.

The company's argument that more than 70 per cent of

total spending on the Balmoral field will be in Britain has been rejected by Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, the Energy Minister, who has insisted that British industry should benefit from British oil.

Mr Buchanan-Smith has told Parliament that if the Swedish order was confirmed, he would "scrutinize carefully" future attempts by the company to win British offshore licences.

Sun Oil, as a major exploration company, will be hoping to win new blocks in the coming ninth round of North Sea licence awards. The company says it has already spent more than £2 billion in Britain.

North Sea oil industry analysts and legal experts have interpreted the threat to keep Sun Oil out of future North Sea licensing rounds as "ill-considered and potentially unlawful".

Esso's British subsidiary is to invest £4.5 billion in operations in Britain between now and 1990, continuing a programme to stay the leader in petrol sales and in North Sea exploration. The current year will be a

record for exploration and production drilling in the North Sea by Esso, with 29 new wells drilled, and the company estimates that total spending in Britain this year will keep 4,000 people in work.

Esso yesterday announced profits in Britain of £420m after tax, and announced a dividend payment to its US parent company of £590m, £170m of this coming from reserves.

The figures also show that Esso UK increased tax and royalty payments to the Government last year by 40 per cent, to £1,463m, and turnover by 24 per cent to £7.5 billion.

Mr Archie Forster, the chairman and chief executive, said that trading conditions were still difficult but that return on assets had increased from 8.3 per cent in 1982 to 17.3 per cent last year.

Mr Forster said yesterday that an estimated 85 per cent of money spent by Esso in British investments in the next six years would be spent with British companies.

£82m profit as BICC recovers

By William Kay, City Editor

BICC, the engineering and power equipment group, yesterday unveiled a set of yearly figures aimed at clearing the decks for a significant recovery in 1984.

Profits for last year emerged at £82m, slightly above market forecast but inevitably well short of 1983's £99m. Sales were £102m ahead at £1,901m. The final dividend is 7.04p, making an unchanged total of 10.54p.

The extraordinary debit item is increased from £6.1m to £10.2m, logging the cost of shutdowns and provisions against investments. Reorganization costs, including redundancy, cut operating profits by £7.3m, against £3.6m before.

Lord Pennock, the chairman, was able to say with that behind him: "The group enters 1984 in a strong financial position. Improvement experienced in the latter part of 1983 is expected to continue into 1984, but the going will not be easy."

Despite that caveat, Lord Pennock's words do not contradict City analysts' predictions of a return to profits of about £100m this year.

While a group of BICC's size is bound to be at the mercy of the world economy, the outlook is good for British cables, electronics and the Balfour Beatty construction business. The international division is the wild card, particularly as it is not expected to come good until the second half.

Severe price cutting in the bottle industry last year plunged the Rockware Group from a £605,000 profit to a £12.8m loss for the year. Turnover fell by £10m to £131.5m, and again there is no dividend.

Extraordinary debits took a further £5.1m out below the line. In the last three years the group has suffered £19m of rationalization costs.

But Sir Peter Parker, who resumed the chairmanship last summer, said yesterday: "The worst is over."

Hepworth Ceramic, the building materials group, has begun talks with a West German company on ways of rationalizing their big refractory businesses, according to industry sources.

Last year Hepworth increased pre-tax profits by 36 per cent, from £24.6m to £33.5m. The final dividend of 3.8p will lifting the year total from 5.6p to 6.3p.

Indicators point to continued revival

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Britain's economic recovery is likely to continue well into next year, according to the latest indicators which track the course of the business cycle.

The longer leading index, which looks about 12 months ahead, rose again in February, boosted by booming share prices.

But there was darker news for the Government on inflation. The Confederation of British Industry reported yesterday that pay settlements in manufacturing so far this year have averaged 6 per cent, slightly higher than a year previously confirming earlier signs that the slowdown in pay deals of the past three and a half years has been halted.

This seems to have been less the result of increasing labour militancy, than a decision by

companies to give their workforces some share in their improving finances. Company profits rose by 25 per cent last year, according to Government figures published on Tuesday.

Over the coming year, the Treasury expects improved productivity and the abolition of the national insurance surcharge to keep down the rise in labour costs. But in the longer run pay deals, which remain well above those of competitors overseas, will have to come down further if Government hopes of lower inflation are to be fulfilled.

The longer leading index for February is based only on two of its five components - interest rates and share prices - and may be revised later. But all the indicators are pointing in the same direction.

US link in Sharpe bid

Hallmark of Kansas City, one of the world's leading greetings cards groups and also one of the largest privately owned companies in the United States, is reliably understood to be the mystery with which W N Sharpe, the Classic greetings cards company, has opened takeover talks.

Octopus Publishing Group

Mortgage rate down at NatWest

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

National Westminster and Bank of Scotland are cutting the cost of their home loans and Lloyds Bank will announce a reduction soon.

A spokesman for Lloyds, which is the most expensive of the big banks for new borrowers, charging 11.75 per cent, said: "We are expecting to make a move and will announce something shortly."

National Westminster is reducing rates on repayment mortgages by half a per cent to 10.5 per cent. On an annualized basis this is roughly in line with the 10.25 per cent building society rate. New borrowers will benefit immediately and existing borrowers from May 1.

Bank of Scotland, whose rates are coming down from 11.25 to 10.5 per cent, is pushing the change through from the beginning of next month.

There are doubts whether the other two big banks are likely to bring their mortgage rates down further in the near future.

Barclays, whose mortgage rate is 11 per cent has given no sign that it is planning a move.

Midland, whose quoted rate is 11.25 per cent said it was looking at rates but it believed its loans were still attractive.

Index at record

Share prices burst through the all-important 900 level yesterday, amid a renewed wave of buying from leading City institutions.

Most of the buying was centred on leading blue chips, where the jobbers remain pitifully short of stock after the market's recent record-breaking run. American arbitrageurs provided the only spark of inspiration, helped by the outlook for the British economy in the face of rising interest rates in the US.

Selective support bolstered Haworth Siddley 10p to 434p and ICI a similar amount to a new "high" of 628p. Oils also encountered selective support, with BP surging 14p to a new "high" of 490p, but the big high street banks lost ground, still reflecting fears over the extra provisions for deferred taxation.

Gilt recovered early falls of up to ½p, with the FT Government Securities Index closing unchanged at 83.15.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 901.4 up 3.8
FT 100: 83.15 unchanged
Burgundy: 28.673
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1176.40 up 0.83
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,413.8 down 65.32
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index 1157.29 down 11.83
Amsterdam: 170.3 up 2.0
Sydney: AO Index 729.7 down 2.3
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1032.9 up 0.8
Brussels: General Index 144.80 down 0.17
Paris: CAC Index 161.4 up 0.5
Zurich: SKA General 305.80 down 0.80

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
\$1.4300 down 75pts
Index 80.5 down 0.1
DM 3.7875 up 0.0050
FrF 11.6550 down 0.02
Yen 354.50 down 0.50
Index 127.7 up 0.5
DM 2.6485 up 0.0108
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4340
Dollar DM 2.6342
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 0.589313
SDR 0.736010

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8½
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 8½
3 month interbank 8½-8½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month DM 10½-10½
3 month DM 5½-5½
3 month FrF 14½-14½
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.50
Fed funds 10½
Treasury long bond 8½½-8½½
ECSD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period February 8 to March 6, 1984 inclusive: 9.373 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Insurance loss record

Last year saw the largest insurance losses in the history of aviation with claims exceeding \$450m (\$315m) against \$290m in 1982. The losses include \$35m for the Korean Boeing 747 shot down by Soviet fighters last August which was settled as a war risks loss.

In total, 27 Western-built jets were confirmed as total losses, including four wide-bodied aircraft, and three big partial losses to wide-bodied aircraft. Competition has held down insurance rates.

©No meeting had been held between the boards of Stylo, the Bradford shoe company, and Harris Queensway by yesterday's deadline of the third closing date for the £35m offer from Harris.

©Britannia Arrow, the unit trust group, is close to clinching a £55m deal to take over Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank owned by European Ferries.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$392.35
close \$392.50 (\$273.50-274)
New York (latest): \$392.25
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$404.40 (\$282-283)
Sovereigns (new):
\$62.93 (\$84.25-85)
*Excludes VAT

Fogel family loses control

By Derek Pain

The Fogel family is ready to relinquish effective control of the Home Charm do-it-yourself group after a £16.5m cash raising exercise.

Yesterday, the company reported much better than expected pre-tax profits of £7.05m for 1983 (against £3.21m) and plans for a rights

issue of 7 per cent, unsecured convertible loan stock.

The founding Fogel family will not be taking up its full entitlement - it would cost £6.6m - which represents nearly 39 per cent of the issue.

Mr Manny Fogel, the chairman, explained: "We just

cannot afford to take up our stock. We are already heavily invested in the company."

The issue is £2 of loan stock for every five shares held. The conversion terms are equal to 166.7p a share and can be exercised for ten years from 1987.

GKN bid falls foul of Monopolies Commission

Tebbit blocks AE takeover

By Andrew Cornelius

The Government yesterday accepted the advice of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and decided to block the proposed takeover of AE by Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, its Midlands-based motor components rival.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, made the decision after accepting the unanimous verdict of the commission that a merger of the two companies' activities would be against the public interest.

The commission concluded that it was particularly concerned about the loss of competition in the supply of plain bearings and cylinder liners and the consequent increase in imports of these

products if the merger went through. The result would be loss of added value and jobs in the British motor components industry.

Sir Alan Neale and the other members of the six-man team which delivered the commission's verdict, said that they were unable to recommend any remedy to remove the public interest detriments which could be expected to arise from the merger.

GKN declared that the decision to block the merger represented a lost opportunity to restructure an important part of the British motor components industry, and make it capable of matching international competition more effectively.

Mr John Collyear, AE's chairman, was delighted. He said that he and his colleagues believed firmly that AE had a secure future as a strong and independent organization. He said the first quarter had produced pretax profits of £3m this year, against £400,000 for the whole of 1983, and that this progress would continue in the second quarter.

The 77-page report from the commission came as a surprise in the City, where it was widely expected that GKN would be allowed to bid again for AE. GKN's shares rose by 2p to 21½p during the day, while AE's shares fell by 7p to 89p, as bid hopes faded.

BICC
1983 Results

	1983	1982
	£m	£m
Turnover	1901.6	1799.1
Operating profit	94.9	112.1
Net interest payable	12.9	13.5
Profit before taxation	82.0	98.6
Taxation	36.3	44.1
Profit after taxation	45.7	54.5
Minority interests	11.8	14.4
Attributable profit	33.9	40.1
Earnings per share	17.8	21.1
Dividends per share	10.54	10.54

The results exclude extraordinary losses of £10.2m (1982: £6.1m).

The Chairman, The Lord Pennock, comments.....

Although performance in 1983 was lower than the previous year, a substantial improvement was achieved in the second half. We will continue to benefit from the increase in economic activity in the industrialised nations but the rate of improvement will depend on the extent of the recovery in our most important markets especially overseas.

The final ordinary dividend of 7.04p per share (1982: 7.04p per share) will, if approved, be paid to ordinary shareholders registered in the books of the Company on 1 June 1984. Warrants will be posted on 29 June 1984, payable 2 July 1984.

The results are based on the full accounts of BICC Group for 1983 on which the auditors gave an unqualified report. Those accounts have not yet been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

The complete press release is available from the Secretary, BICC plc, P.O. Box No. 5, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QN.

The 1983 annual report will be posted to share and loan stock holders on 18 April 1984.

The annual general meeting will be held in the Methven Room, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU, on 17 May 1984 at 12 noon.

BICC

CABLES, ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS
CIVIL, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

BICC

Applied Botanics shares crash after profits hint

By Jeremy Warner

Shares in Applied Botanics, the pot-plant company which was floated on the Unlisted Securities Market last October, came down to earth with a thump yesterday when Mr Jeremy Warner, the chairman, disclosed that the company's main trading offshoot, New Ruaton, Garden, would not reach its forecast profits of £300,000 in the year to the end of the month.

Floated on the market at just 8.5p in October, the shares have since reached dizzy heights, only to crash 7p yesterday to 16p after Mr Warner's warning. "We were concerned that people were trading the shares at too high a level. They have to be aware that we will not make our forecast this year because of a change in sales pattern, though I would hope that the shortfall is not going to be too serious", Mr Warner said.

New Ruaton has about 16 acres under glass at Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, on which it grows house plants for sale to the main multiple retailers.

This trading year, the company has been hit by a sharp shift from the traditional sales pattern. October and November were exceptionally poor, although there was a record December. January and February were poor, and March was good.

MONEY MARKETS

A main worry of the discount market at present is the low level of suitable paper that the houses have available to sell to the bank of England.

So changes in the official forecast that saw yesterday's shortage rise steadily from £350m to around £550m was the last thing the houses needed. The Bank of England finally provided £600m of assistance, though the bulk of this - £353m - again came via purchase and resale agreements.

These were arranged at interest rates of 8½ - 9 per cent, with £160m of bills going

back on March 27 and £187m returning on March 28.

A total of £197m of bills was bought outright at established rates, and the help was finally topped up with £50m of loans to the market.

The close still proved rather difficult in spite of the apparently generous programme of assistance.

Secured money, down to about 7½ per cent midway through the afternoon, pushed up to between 8 per cent and 9 per cent for final balances.

For the market, Exchequer transactions were £135m in surplus.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar witnessed profit-taking in foreign exchanges yesterday. Earlier the US currency made strong gains at the expense of most currencies.

Sterling, which at one stage had lost more than a cent finished 75 points lower at \$1.4300.

The pound's effective exchange index too came off the bottom but was still down on balance at 80.5 compared with 80.6 overnight. Sterling, however, made a useful rise at the expense of the Deutschmark, closing at a premium up at DM3.7990.

Dealers said demand was heavy for the dollar in the earlier part of the session with the West German central bank being forced to sell \$30.15m at the fixing.

Speculation over the prospect of higher United States interest rates and possibly a rise in the Federal discount rate remained the chief spur.

The Deutschmark, which was not influenced to any extent by a rise of DM1 billion in West German money supply, ended well off the bottom at 2.6485 (2.6365) to the dollar. The Swiss franc was easier at 2.1765 (2.1635) along with the French Franc 8.1535 (8.1200).

Buyers push index to 901

Unit trust prices page 24

A renewed welter of buying pushed the FT index through the important 900-level yesterday as share prices continued their record-breaking run. Further optimism over the economy and a shortage of stock among the jobbers saw fresh demand for blue chips. The FT index ended the day 3.8 higher at an all-time high of 901.4, while the F7-SE 100 index was 7.4 higher at 1130.7.

Dealers again reported brisk two-way business with American arbitrageurs again prominent. Among leaders Associated Dairies rose 4p to 182p, BTR 7p to 484p, Beecham 3p to 338p, BOC Group 6p to 294p, Bowater 5p to 282p, Glaxo 7p to 862p, Hanson Trust 3p to 190p, Hawker Siddeley 12p to 434p, ICI 14p to 632p, Tate & Lyle 7p to 415p, and BAT Industries 1p to 212p.

Oil shares remained dull still reflecting the upward pressure on US interest rates. Prices rose up to £4 in longs, while at the shorter end they closed mostly unchanged.

The life insurance market received an unexpected boost from Britannic 15p higher at 463p, after figures, Equity & Law rallied 5p to 717p, along with Hambro Life 7p to 418p, Legal & General 7p to 483p, London & Manchester Group 6p to 451p, Pearl Assurance 12p to 744p, Prudential 10p to 446p, Refuge Assurance 19p to 455p and Sun Life 1p to 586p.

The composite market also opened firmer but lost ground as the day wore on. Commercial Union lost 1p to 187p, but General Accident added 3p to 633p, Guardian Royal Exchange a similar figure at 556p and Royal Insurance 4p to 586p. Minister Assets was unchanged at 131p along with Phoenix Assurance at 433p.

In oils BP started to live up to expectations, climbing 15p to a new high of 495p. Following the Government's sell-off of further 7 per cent of the shares in the autumn brokers had been predicting the shares would hit a high of 500p before Christmas.

mas. However, every time the share price touched 430p it was hit by a welter of selling from the underwriters, which only served to depress the price. Now analysts are starting to look at the shares in a new light and reckon they look cheap compared with their nearest rival, Shell, down 3p to 662p.

The rest of the oil market remained firm with prices ending the day better for choice after their recent neglected run. But Ultramar was the exception, losing 12p to 712p reflecting the 500,000 shares that were overhanging the market, which now appear to have been cleared. Britoil hardened 4p to 270p, Carless Capel 1p to 231p, Clyde Petroleum 2p to 141p and Avnil Petroleum 1p to 91p.

Another firm market was Imperial Continental Gas 7p. Midsomer Inns, the pub chain once called CAMRA (Real Ale Investments) was unchanged at 160p following further share buying by the group's shareholders who run a little brewery at Leicester. The shares are now by far the largest shareholders in the company with 24.3 per cent. A merger between the brewery, T. Hosking, and Midsomer could be in the fermenting vessel.

dearer at 306p. IC Gas has borne the brunt of the recession in recent years, but now appears to be bearing the fruits of recent rationalization. Both the Calor Gas and its oil and gas exploration side continue to improve and there are signs in Belgium of an upturn in the group's interests. Hoare Govett, the broker has consistently regarded the shares as a buy and this is a line now being taken by several other brokers.

In stores the upgrading of Dixons Group, the photographic retailer, continued. This time it is the turn of broker Phillips & Drew which is looking for £20m in the current year and recommends the shares as a buy. This is also the view of broker Grieson Grant which remains a big fan of the shares.

Linrad, the struggling maker of cold forged fasteners, suffered a £595,000 pre-tax loss in the 17 months to end-December and is not paying a final dividend. So for the period the payment is a token 0.1p a share against 1p. The news was not unexpected and the shares held at 46p. The company, which turned in a better performance in the final five months, expects to pay a 1p interim in its current year.

Electra Investment Trust has picked up another three million shares in sweets group Barker and Dobson and now has a share over 6 per cent in it. The shares were unchanged at 11½p.

Norton Opax, printers of bingo cards and lottery tickets, gained 3p to 116p on the acquisition of four lottery contracts worth £1.5m in a full year. The company now supplies 33 overseas lotteries.

The "big four" high street banks lost ground after yesterday's report in *The Times*. The market is worried by speculation that the big clearers might decide to join the growing rights issue queue to compensate for the Chancellor's decision in the recent Budget to increase deferred tax. Barclays dipped 10p to 51½p, Lloyds Bank 5p to 57½p, and National Westminster 3p to 64½p. Only Midland gained ground adding 5p to 52½p.

A stronger dollar and fresh speculation about higher US interest rates provided for a quiet session in the gold market where the bullion price continued to mark time. Among the heavyweight producers, prices lost ground but closed above worst levels. American Gold lost 5½p to \$127¼, Buffelsfontein 5½p to \$67½, Driefontein 5½p to \$39¼, and Free State Gold 5½p to \$44½.

Equity turnover on March 20, was £404.106m (24,894 bargains). British and Irish stocks totalled 215.44 million shares and gilt bargains reached an estimated 3,567.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was up more than a point. Advancing issues were about 7-to-5 ahead of declines. Trading was moderately active. Mr Thom Brown, executive vice-president and chairman of the investment policy committee at Butcher & Singer, said: "Investor's expectations have been dampened by the poor performance of the high growth sector."

International Business Machines was up ½ at 115½. General Electric unchanged at 53. General Motors up ½ to 106½. Tiedye up ½ at 170. Merck off ½ at 92½. Lockheed up ½ to 32½. Texan Instruments up ½ at 135½ and Monsanto up ½ to 94½.

Phillips Petroleum was 39½ up ½. Standard Oil of Indiana 53 unchanged. Atlantic Richfield 46½ unchanged.

WALL STREET

Shares mostly higher in moderate trading

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Shares were mostly higher in early trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was up more than a point.

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Mr Thom Brown, executive vice-president and chairman of the investment policy committee at Butcher & Singer, said: "Investor's expectations have been dampened by the poor performance of the high growth sector."

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Buyers approach VGI

By Jonathan Clare

VGI Instruments, the Grove-wood Securities spin-off which makes high technology measuring equipment, has received "two or three" approaches from businesses which would like to buy the company.

The suitors include one of its principal US competitors, but Grove-wood has shown no inclination to sell any of the 69 per cent stake it has retained.

VGI went public with a tender offer which flopped badly last December. Yesterday, VGI's share price broke the 200p level to close at 206p.

But yesterday's full-year results for 1983 comfortably exceeded the offer document's profits forecast of £7m. The company made £7.3m against £6.5m.

KENNING MOTOR GROUP p.l.c.

Contributors and Retailers of Cars, Commercial Vehicles, Petroleum Products and Tyres, Concessionaires for John Bull Tyres, Specialists in Service and Parts, Long Term Contract Hire, Car and Van Hire, Bodybuilders, Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles, Road Tank Vehicles and Remoulded Tyres, Operators of Motorway Service Areas, Insurance Brokers and Travel Agents, Developers and Retailers of Leisure Property.

Year Ended 30th September 1983	1983 £000	1982 £000
Turnover	326,381	287,890
Profit before Taxation	11,747	8,204
Dividends Distributed	2,533	1,795

Shareholders Funds £87.4m (Issued Capital and Reserves)
Fixed Assets £63.5m
Number of Shareholders 4,199
Value of Group's Properties £33.8m

KENNING MOTOR GROUP p.l.c.

The Charities Official Investment Fund

Annual Report 1983

	Value 31/12/83	% Change 1983
Income Shares	239.96p	+23.6%
Accumulation Shares	643.72p	+24.6%
F.T. Act. All Share Index		+23.1%

Income Share dividends were increased from 13.10p to 14.00p in 1983.

● A common investment fund under a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners. Available to any charity in England or Wales.

● A Special Range investment. No division of a charity's capital required under the Trustee Investments Act.

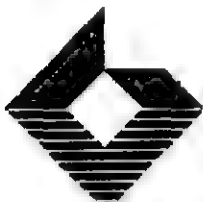
● Income Share dividends paid free of U.K. Income Tax.

To: The Charities Official Investment Fund, 77 London Wall, London EC2N 1DB. (01-588 1815)

Please send me a copy of the 1983 Annual Report.

Name _____

Address _____



VG INSTRUMENTS PLC RESULTS - 1983

	1983 £m	1982 £m
Turnover	40.3	31.9
Trading profit	6.4	4.9
Profit before tax	7.3	6.5
Profit after tax and minority interests	3.9	3.4
Earnings per share	7.90p	6.86p

After the recessionary effects of the previous year, 1983 saw big improvements in production and orders, as well as a strengthening of margins. We expect these improvements to continue in 1984 which will also benefit from the introduction of three new manufacturing areas and several new products.

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from the Secretary, 29 Brighton Road, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6AE.

Britannic Assurance PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

RESULTS FOR 1983

	1983 £000	1982 £000
Life Branches		
Total Premium Income	112,910	103,793
Total Surplus for Policyholders	55,173	47,301
General Branch		
Total Premium Income	14,785	13,673
Underwriting (Loss)	(1,952)	(2,271)
Investment Income	1,812	1,752
Profit (Loss) after Tax	(58)	(367)
Transfer to (from) Claims Equalisation Reserve	—	(200)
Profit and Loss Account		
Transfer from life branches	4,516	3,855
Transfer (to) from general branch	(58)	(167)
Total Surplus for the year, including other net income	4,600	3,818
Net Dividend for the year for stockholders	21.8p	18.55p

BONUS DECLARATION FOR POLICYHOLDERS

Ordinary Branch Reversionary Bonuses		Industrial Branch Reversionary Bonuses
Ordinary Policies	Annuities	Bonuses
£5.50% (1982 £5.35%) of sum assured	£6.65% (1982 £6.40%) of annuity	£4.30% (1982 £4.20%) of sum assured

PLUS increased scale of terminal bonuses

PLUS special reversionary bonus and increased scale of terminal bonuses

Britannic Assurance Covers the Country

NatWest Mortgage Rate

With effect from 22nd March, 1984 for new borrowers, and 1st May, 1984 for existing borrowers, the NatWest Mortgage Rate payable under current Mortgage Deeds and Conditions of Offer will be decreased by ½ to 10½ p.a.

National Westminster Home Loans Limited

41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.

1983 results

of Kleinwort, Benson, Lonsdale plc for the year ended 31st December

	1983 (unaudited)	1982 (audited)
Profit after tax	£21.7m	£20.0m
Total dividend per share	12p	11p
Earnings per share	39.7p	36.8p
Shareholders' funds	£215m	£197m
Capital resources including loan stock, deferred tax and minority interests	£293m	£278m
Total assets	£4,240m	£3,702m

"The results for the year are appreciably better than anticipated at the interim stage."

Copies of the Annual Report will be sent to all shareholders on 6th April 1984. Further copies will be available from the Secretary

United Kingdom: Birmingham, Manchester, Newbury and Edinburgh
Overseas: Bogota · Bremen · Brussels · Chicago · Fribourg · Geneva
Gothenburg · Guernsey · Hong Kong · Isle of Man · Jersey · Los Angeles
Madrid · Melbourne · New York · Paris · Rio de Janeiro · Singapore
Sydney · Tokyo

Kleinwort Benson

20 Fenchurch Street London EC3P 3DB

The International Merchant Bank

Diana Geddes on growing tension between policy and unemployment

French Cabinet bites the bullet of industrial reform

"The originality of our proposals, compared with those of other countries, is that we do not wish to see any redundancies", M Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, said last month when announcing his government's proposed measures to soothe the pain of what is called industrial "reconstruction". Further details of its plans were due to be finalized at yesterday's cabinet meeting, but have been put off due to the crises in the EEC and Lebanon.

M Mauroy no longer talks of keeping unemployment to the two million mark, but simply of avoiding compulsory redundancies. The number of unemployed rose by a further 58,000 last month, bringing the total increase since last October to 160,000, up 8 per cent over the past four months.

Until then, the Government had achieved a remarkable success in containing unemployment largely by a variety of social measures, including retirement from 55 in certain sectors, as well as an overall reduction of the statutory retiring age from 65 to 60, a cut in the working week from 40 to 39 hours, and the introduction of youth training schemes. These were designed to mop up 800,000 of the unemployed under 25, though the poor take-up has kept numbers well below that.

It is now generally considered that not much more can be done with those kinds of palliatives. However, independent experts are forecasting an acceleration of industrial job losses from an average of 100,000 a year over the past five years to 200,000-300,000 this year.

Exaggeration

Two of the main unions, the Communist-led CGT and the independent Force Ouvrière, are making dire predictions of 3 million unemployed by the end of the year, though that is almost certainly an exaggeration. But the fear is there and the unions, which have given the Socialist Government a relatively easy ride through a difficult economic period, are beginning to play up. More days have already been lost through strikes this year than in the whole of last year.

The projected job loss figures (official and unofficial) in some of the key industrial sectors make dramatic reading: 25,000-

30,000 in steel (out of a total workforce of 95,000) over the next three years; 30,000 in coal (out of a workforce of 57,000) by 1990; at least 5,000 in shipbuilding (out of a workforce of 20,000) by 1986; 15,000 in the car industry this year alone; and 50,000 in the construction industry.

The Government hopes that most redundancies can be achieved through natural wastage, including early retirement. Where that is insufficient, it is proposing as part of its industrial reconstruction measures a scheme of "redeployment leave", under which workers made compulsorily redundant would receive 82 per cent of their net salaries for up to two years while retraining.

If after that they have still not found a job, they will be eligible for the normal redundancy payments. The idea, however, and the way in which the scheme is being sold to the unions, is that they will somehow have found a job. Over the next two years, some 10,000-15,000 workers are expected to be involved in the scheme, which is to be limited to the coal, steel and shipbuilding industries.

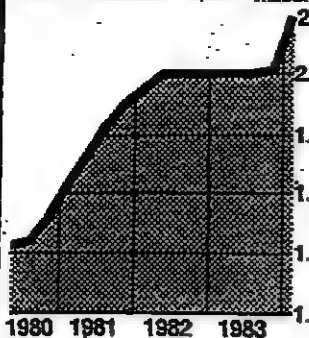
That has provoked criticism from some unions, which feel that what is right for some must be right for all. Similar criticisms are levelled against the other main innovation in the Government's proposed measures, namely the creation of 14 "industrial conversion zones" covering selected threatened areas and partly modelled on the British enterprise zones, in which special tax incentives will be available for companies preserving threatened jobs, or creating new ones.

New package

The Government's new package of industrial reconstruction measures is expected to cost Fr4.5 billion (about £400m). That includes an additional Fr1

FRENCH UNEMPLOYMENT MOVES UP AGAIN

Source: OECD, adjusted figures millions



M. Pierre Mauroy, Prime Minister

billion for the nationalized industries, which will now receive nearly Fr14 billion this year, and an extra Fr2 billion for the private sector, bringing its total of government aid to Fr7 billion.

Despite that increase in government funding, however, the hoped-for increase in business investment this year now seems unlikely. Investment has fallen progressively since 1974 (by as much as 13 per cent between 1974 and 1981), and as a result French industry has fallen badly behind that of most of its main competitors. Employers' lack of confidence in the present Government merely exacerbated an already deteriorating situation.

Suffering

Much of French industry is suffering from serious over-manning, excess capacity, and outmoded, uneconomic plant. Although the Government now insists that industrial reconstruction has not suddenly dawned on it overnight, it did concentrate on expansion rather than contraction in its first year in office, then found its hands

more than full in coping with the new economic rigour over the 18 months after that. Only in the last three months has it really begun to grapple with industry's long-term problems.

The size of the social and economic task now confronting the Government is making some of its supporters quail. The Communists blandly insist that there is no overmanning problem in French industry, and, therefore, no need for any job losses. The left-wing "Céres" faction of the Socialist Party, led by the former industry minister, M. Pierre Chevènement, is becoming increasingly outspoken in its criticism of government policy, and has renewed its call for economic growth (with the inevitable trade protectionism that would entail).

President Mitterrand appears determined to forge ahead, however, despite the increase in industrial unrest and unpopularity that his policies are certain to provoke in the short term. His rating in the opinion polls is already at a record low for any President under the Fifth Republic, but that does not deter him. He relishes a challenge when he believes he is right - and he does. The path ahead will be

stormy. The truce with unions is over. Wages, which rose in real terms by an average of 3 per cent a year between 1972 and 1982, producing an increase of nearly 35 per cent over the 10 years, have since declined slightly and look set for a further cut this year. It is the first time since the war (except for a slight hiccup in 1980) that French workers have been asked to accept a cut in their standard of living.

The Government is hoping to limit wage increases to 5 per cent this year, in line with its inflation target. But an increase in prices of 1.4 per cent in the first two months of the year makes that target look increasingly unattainable, and the unions are fully aware of that. The opening shot of the battle to protect the purchasing power of wages was fired this month, when thousands of public service workers took to the streets, bringing a day of chaos to schools, the transport system, electricity supply, and postal service.

Elections

The rise in unemployment is a source, not only of dismay and fear, but also of anger. One of the Socialists' key election promises was that they would cut unemployment, then rising at an annual 20 per cent. The new government promised to reverse the long decline in the coal and steel industries.

Those promises have not been kept. Coal output has continued to fall, totalling only 18.5 million tons last year, and now looks set to be cut by further 3 to 6 million tonnes, while steel production, which was to have been increased to 24 million tonnes by 1986, has fallen to 17.5 million tonnes.

There are some positive signs for the Government, however. Compared with their British counterparts, the French unions are weak and disunited. The Government is therefore likely to be able to push through its reconstruction measures quicker than in Britain. It is also likely to benefit from the pick-up in the world economy, which should help dampen the effects of its relatively late economic recession.

But the government is in a race against time. It knows that it must have the worst behind it by 1986 if it is to stand a chance of winning the parliamentary elections in the spring of that year.

Meantime, it intends to batten down the hatches, and wait for the expected storm to pass, while trying to keep the ship of state on its still unsteady course.

Aspinall Holdings up £21m

Aspinall Holdings yesterday reported profits of £79.64m for the year to November 30 last against £58.1m for the same period last year. Turnover rose to £19.75m from £15.94m.

Gaming licence duty totalled £4.22m against £2.97m with other operating costs at £4.33m. Operating profit rose to £11.19m from £8.47m and pretax profit was up to £15.11m from £8.98m.

Last night the group's share price was up 5p to 140p.

As announced in December last, the group purchased 4,778,905 ordinary shares of Anglo-Scottish Investment Trust at a total cost of £6.6m.

The group intends to retain this holding as an investment and shareholders will be advised on any change in this policy.

The board says that development of the group will be organic as far as the gaming activities are concerned and by way of an acquisition policy it is intended to diversify the group both within and outside the leisure industry.

The transfer of the gaming activities to the new premises in Mayfair, London, for which a gaming licence was granted in May 1983, is expected to take place at end of the current month.

In brief

● **HANSON TRUST:** Hanson Trust owns or has a controlling interest in 28.56 million London Brick ordinary shares (91 per cent) and 359,731 preference shares (89.93 per cent). Offers remain unconditional as to acceptances and are extended to April 3, 1984.

● **W.W. GROUP:** In 1983, pretax profits rose from £683,000 to £1,066,000 on turnover up from £25.15m to £26.73m. Total dividend 7.9p (6.9p) net a share. Board confident further progress will be made in current year.

● **ARMSTRONG EQUIPMENT:** In the half-year to December 31, 1983, this engineering group managed to recover to a profit of £1.05m, against a loss of £1.23m last time. Sales rose from £31.92m to £36.97m. An interim dividend of 0.2p net a share is being paid for the previous year, there was no interim payment, but a final of only 0.1p net. With all divisions now trading profitably, the board expects further improvements in the second half-year. The first two months confirm this view.

● **SIRDAR:** The knitting wool manufacturer, is lifting its interim payment from the equivalent of 0.92p to 1.25p a share. On turnover up from £15.38m to £17.67m, pretax profits rose from £3.36m to £4.56m in the 28 weeks to January 13, 1984. Although the board does not expect a similar increase in the second-half's results, it believes that the recent market improvement will continue and that the year's results will show a substantial rise on the previous year.

● **TELEMETRIX** reports first-half results which are double those achieved in the same period last year. This Tewkesbury-based group designs and manufactures electronic products. For the six months to December 31, 1983 pretax profits were £919,000 (£433,000 1982) and turnover was £4.1m (£1.6m 1982). Earnings per share were 3.1p and an interim dividend of 0.5p per share is being paid. Telemetrix obtained a listing for its shares in October, 1983. Company still expects to achieve its profit forecast for the year.

● **BESTOBELL:** For the year ended Dec 31, 1983, pretax profits fell from £8.7m to £5.1m. Turnover, £137.2m (£130m), fell 7.8p, making 13.5p net for year (unchanged).

● **JOHN L. JACOBS:** Total net dividend for 1983 raised from 2.6p to 2.9p a share. Pretax profit £29,000 (£1,37m). Tax £318,000 (£260,000). Extraordinary credits of £1.98m (all last time), being mainly net profit from sale of 19, Great Winchester St, London, EC2.

● **BELHAVEN BREWERY GROUP:** has bought the freehold and the contents of the Combe Hotel, Woolacombe, North Devon, for £375,000 cash.

● **BEUTHEIM ASSURANCE:** Surplus for 1983, £4.6m (£3.81m). Total net dividend, 21.8p (18.55p) a share.

● **EIS GROUP:** EIS is to buy Northampton Machinery from G. M. Firth (Holdings) - subject to approval by Firth shareholders - for £1.39m.

● **CHARTERHOUSE J. ROTH-SCHILD PACIFIC INVESTMENT TRUST:** Offer for sale of 40 million ordinary shares (with warrants) received 5,614 applications for a total of 44.23 million shares.

● **LONDON AND SCOTTISH MARINE OIL:** Payment on operations in respect of Lago's share of production from Nisnas Field for six months to Dec 31, 1983, will be 44.9p a unit (equivalent to 64.4p gross). Payment date: April 30.

● **VALOR-DREAMLAND:** Valor's offer for issued and to-be issued capital of Dreamland not already owned has been accepted for 10.45 million ordinary shares (48.6 per cent). Valor now owns or has acceptances for 16.87 million ordinary shares (78.5 per cent). The cash offer has now expired and the share offer has been extended to April 5.

● **CHARTERHALL:** Turnover for half-year to Dec 31, 1983, £2.77m (£637,000). Profit, after tax, £591,000, against a loss of £280,000 last time.

● **SCOTLAND FIN:** Interest rate for the period from March 23 to September 23 has been fixed at 11½ per cent.

● **ASARCO:** The company will close on March 31 its Sazon open-pit copper mine in Arizona, where the ore reserves have been exhausted, according to Mr T. E. Scarsacini, general manager, South-Western Mining Department.

● **PAULS & WHITES:** The company has announced the formation of a new company within the group, Pauls Flavours and Fragrances, which will start trading next month.

● **LEMPRIERE INDUSTRIES:** The Australian biotechnology group, Genetech Australia, which is going public through a reverse takeover of Lempriere Industries, proposes within a year of listing to place \$US53m worth of stock in the United States.

CREST NICHOLSON

The holding company with interests in property, sports surfaces, conveying systems, optical products, electronics and marine services

Continued Progress in 1983

	1982	1983
Sales	£56,858,000	£72,319,000
Pre-tax profits	6,724,000	7,012,000
Earnings per share	10.15p	10.01p
Dividends per share	3.15p	3.35p

* Increase in profits for the ninth consecutive year

* Recent acquisition of the BVC business and Leatherhead site

* Real growth in profits expected this year

Accounts available from the Secretary, Crest House, Station Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 9NP

Hoechst UK names executive chairman

Hoechst UK: Following the retirement of the chairman, Mr Norman Mischler, at the end of June, managing director and chief executive Mr Dominik Von Winterfeldt will become the new executive chairman of Hoechst UK, in addition to his other responsibilities. Mr Terry Collins, group vice-chairman and managing director of

Berger, Jensen and Nicholson will succeed Mr Norman Mischler as Berger, Jensen and Nicholson executive chairman. The Burton Group: Mr Richard T. Harris, deputy chairman of Gallaher and chairman of the Council of the Institute of Directors, has been

appointed a non-executive director. International Hospitals Group: Mr Colin Pincombe has been made managing director. MEPC: Mr James A. Beveridge, financial controller has become finance director. Standard Chartered Bank:

Mr R. N. Casey has been appointed general manager, administration. Mr G. P. Roffe, senior general manager has retired.

GRCP: Mr Rupert Chetwynd has been made executive chairman. He succeeds Mr Nigel Grandfield. Alexander Howden Group: Mr Al Skwierz has become general counsel to the group. Greenfriar Investment Company: Mr R. L. Henderson and Mr A. P. Hitchens have joined the board.

Weatherall Green & Smith: Mr John Chapman is retiring as senior partner on April 30. He will remain with the firm as a consultant. Mr David Yorke will be the new senior partner. Bort Foster & Partners: Mr Ben Foster, the founder of the firm's international practice is to retire. Mr Kenneth Mallin has been made chairman of the world wide group of practices with Mr Tony Shand as chief executive. Metrel: Mr Barry Cramp has become managing director.

Cornhill Insurance Group 1983 Results

Premium Income

General Life

£16.5m £23.1m £21.7m

£140.0m £154.4m £175.9m

Profits before taxation

£12.5m £12.0m £13.8m

£12.5m £12.0m £13.8m

£12.5m £12.0m £13.8m

1981 1982 1983

1981 1982 1983

	1983 £000	1982 £000
Premium Income		
General Business	175,938	154,436
Life Business	21,689	23,092
	197,627	177,528
Profits		
Underwriting results	(10,085)	(9,439)
Investment income attributable to general insurance funds	16,435	15,484
General insurance profit	6,350	6,025
Life insurance profit	1,079	100
Investment and other income attributable to shareholders' funds	6,464	5,943
Share of associated company result	(54)	—
	13,839	12,066

Copies of the Report & Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary at 32 Cornhill, London EC3V 3LL.



Cornhill Insurance Group
A member of the BTR Group of companies

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	8 1/4%
Bardays	8 3/4%
BCCI	8 1/4%
Citibank Savings	11 1/4%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co.	8 1/4%
Lloyds Bank	8 1/4%
Midland Bank	8 1/4%
Nat Westminster	8 1/4%
TSE	8 1/4%
Williams & Glyn's	8 1/2%

† After 1983 Base Rates.

7 day deposits: 8 1/4% to 8 3/4%
3 month deposits: 8 1/4% to 8 3/4%
6 month deposits: 8 1/4% to 8 3/4%
12 month deposits: 8 1/4% to 8 3/4%

Scottish Life Investments INSURANCE FUNDS

	Net	25th Feb 84	25th Feb 83
Per Managed	98.4	103.7	103.7
Property	100.0	103.7	103.7
Per UK Equity	100.0	103.7	103.7
Per American	98.7	104.0	104.0
Per Pacific	98.7	104.0	104.0
Per Europe	98.7	104.0	104.0
Per Int'l	98.7	104.0	104.0
Per Japan Ltd	98.7	104.0	104.0
Per Japan Ltd	98.7	104.0	104.0
Per Deposit	98.7	104.0	104.0

Scottish Life
19 St Andrew Square Edinburgh
Telephone: 031-225 2211

Burton profits up 44%

Results for the half year up to 25th February 1984

- ★ Record pre-tax profit up 44% to £26.1 million
- ★ Turnover - up by 37%
- ★ Interim dividend up 29%
- ★ 115 trading outlets added in the first six months
- ★ £60m being invested in 1984
- ★ Growth record sustained by strong management

The Chairman, Mr Ralph Halpern, says:

"All the major retailing divisions contributed to the improvements in sales and profits."

In the first half the Group has increased its share of the UK clothing market and remains committed to further increases in the future.

This continued profitable expansion demonstrates the success of policies for developing and motivating management and staff at all levels.

Investment in new products and trading space continues, and capital expenditure this year is currently forecast at £60 million compared with £29 million last year."

Copies of the Interim Statement may be obtained from the Secretary, The Burton Group plc, 214 Oxford Street, London W1N 9DF.

Burton is a winner for customers, shareholders and staff

Burton is a winner for customers, shareholders and staff

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Burton is a winner for customers, shareholders and staff

Burton is a winner for customers, shareholders and staff

A SPECIAL REPORT

British banking

Banking at domestic and international levels is being transformed by fierce competition, new technologies and the liberalising of some long established controls

British banking is caught in the throes of a revolution more profound and far-reaching than anything bankers have had to cope with in the past. Changes almost promise to transform the nature of their high street banking operations within the next decade or so.

Competition, technology and a government committed to liberalising financial markets are forcing the pace. Building societies and a host of other financial institutions are moving into areas traditionally left to the banks.

Although British banks remain very profitable by comparison with those in other countries, this profitability is under pressure on a number of fronts. Corporate customers are still suffering from the effects of the recession. The problems of the debtor countries have eased considerably over the past year but higher United States interest rates may quickly precipitate a new round of crises.

With these question marks still hanging over the quality of their loan portfolios, the big four clearing banks pushed up their combined bad debt provisions by 31 per cent to £1.28 billion last year. Profits still showed a healthy rise in 1983 from £1.51 billion to £1.70 billion pre-tax. But it is instructive to note that bad debt provisions were equivalent to 43 per cent of pre-tax profits compared with only 23 per cent just two years earlier.

This year provisions are expected to show a considerable fall but there are other problems to contend with. The recent budget has piled uncertainty onto uncertainty with measures which directly or indirectly hit the banks. From April next year they will have to adopt a composite rate tax system and deduct tax at source from the interest they pay to personal depositors.

Meanwhile the budget decision to reify the corporate tax system and reduce capital

allowances on new investment has dealt a body blow to the banks' leasing businesses, which they have used to defer paying huge amounts of tax, and to their balance sheets as well.

The banks have generally made provision for only about a quarter of this tax and the total not provided for at the end of last year is estimated at £2.85 billion. The changes in allowances mean that banks may now have to make large provisions for part of this potential tax liability with damaging effect on the strength of their balance sheets.

The phased changes in the corporate tax system may also affect the demand for credit because the budget measures have the impact of gradually increasing the attractions for companies of financing themselves with equity.

Striking a link with securities

Alongside the budget changes, two other developments have taken place in the last couple of months which may come to be seen as key turning points in the evolution of the banking industry.

The most significant was the decision by Barclays Bank to move into the securities industry by forging links with the largest jobbing firm in the Stock Exchange, Wedd, Durlacher Mordaunt and one of the big stockbrokers, de Zoete & Bevan. Although not the only clearing bank to strike a link with a Stock Exchange firm since the upheavals in the securities industry got underway, National Westminster is to take a stake in jobbers Bisgood, Bishop and Midland is buying an interest in stockbrokers W. Greenwell - the Barclays move is the clearest indication so far that the banks are not simply responding to the changing market place around them, but are also aggressively initiating change.



Banking at work: the hectic, sometimes even frantic, action of dealers in a City money centre, and a patient queue at a cash dispenser. It is the plastic card that has brought round-the-clock banking to the ordinary account holder.

The tie-ups, Sir Timothy Bevan, chairman of Barclays said: "Will form the core and basis for development of a powerful new international securities company." The concept is that of the financial supermarket, global one-stop shopping whether for loans, shares or whatever other service the bank provides.

The aim is to improve and extend the service for corporate customers while for personal customers there is the prospect in the future of being able to buy and sell shares cheaply in one of Barclays's 2,000 high street branches via a sophisticated electronic system.

The other important development was the introduction by Midland Bank of its High Interest Cheque Account, the first by a clearing bank and a scheme which compares well with the many other varieties which have been on offer for some time from merchant banks and unit trust groups, seeking to create off the clearer's richer and most lucrative customers.

The Midland scheme is the clearest indication to date that the days of the current account which pays no interest is numbered. It recognises the fact that the clearer's need to compete more aggressively in the market for personal deposits in order to fund their lending business and its introduction could not have been more timely.

The clearing banks have long been losing out in the market for personal deposits, largely to the building societies but to the government's National Savings as well. The erosion of their

traditional deposit base has forced them to resort increasingly to much more expensive wholesale or market related funds which now provide about half of their sterling deposits. Meanwhile "free" current accounts have roughly halved as a proportion of the total from 50 per cent a decade ago and are worth less to the banks as interest rates fall. With current accounts making a dwindling contribution to paying for the unwieldy branch networks, the banks have been forced to push up bank charges to corporate and personal customers sharply and the amounts they earned in charges rose by about one-quarter last year.

Although current accounts have stabilised recently, the banks have continued to lose out badly with their 7-day deposit accounts which are very uncompetitive.

Being forced to deduct tax at source on the interest they pay depositors will make life even tougher for the banks because once the rates are quoted net of tax, the banks' deposit accounts will appear even less competitive with what building societies and others offer. This is the bankers' real worry, behind the tears they have been shedding for their non-taxpaying customers who will suffer from the much criticised composite rate tax system. For the banks will either have to pay better rates of interest or rely increasingly on

less stable wholesale money. This is why Midland's account is so timely and at some point the other big banks are sure to follow, whether they decide to introduce an account which is paper-based using cheques or is based on plastic cards.

Behind this sea of change and uncertainty which banks are both initiating and responding to, lie two key issues to be tackled. What services should banks provide to their customers? And how should they provide them?

The two issues are inter-related and the answers far from clear cut. Lloyds Bank for instance now runs the biggest estate agency chain in the country yet the other big banks have not followed this course. Midland Bank is particularly strong in insurance broking. Other banks may not aspire, like Barclays to sell shares over the branch counter.

As to how the banks provide their services to customers, the big clearing banks share a common problem with their costly branch networks. An important asset for the banks because of the access and personal contact it gives to customers, it is nevertheless a growing liability because of the huge staffing and overhead costs. Many of the branches are gloomy and uninviting - a problem banks are tackling by radically redesigning branches

and two of the banks, Barclays and Midland, are separating their networks between corporate and personal branches.

Technology also provides an important opportunity to contain the cost of branch networks by reducing the huge amounts of paper passing through the system. At the same time however the march of technology threatens to make many aspects of the branch network increasingly redundant.

Cash dispensers and automated tellers which provide bank statements are one of the technological developments which customers now readily accept and no longer find novel.

However, far more radical developments are under way. The banks are cooperating on electronic funds transfer at point of sale (EFTPOS) which will allow customers to pay for goods at retailers with a plastic card and money will be debited directly from their bank account or quite likely building society account.

Further ahead is the prospect of home banking which could eventually almost remove the need for customers to go into a bank branch. The Nottingham Building Society has already set up a scheme which cost £3m to develop and includes a special current account with the Bank of Scotland. With a special terminal, telephone and television set customers can pay bills, transfer money and cheque their accounts and order and pay for food.

Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

Round-the-clock instant cash

When Barclays Bank, in August 1982, threw open its doors to customers on Saturday mornings, it reversed a decline in the quality of service that had been going on for several decades.

Whether or not the move proves a success is likely to depend on people's attitude towards pushing plastic cards into machines, but there is no doubt that Barclays move marked a turning point in the high street banks' attitude towards personal customers.

The necessity for Saturday opening had been modified to some extent by the provision of easy access to cash-round-the-clock through cash dispenser machines - first introduced in the middle 1960s. The high street banks now have more than 6,300 automated teller machines and the building societies are catching up.

Competition from the building societies prompted Barclays to revert to Saturday morning opening in 1982. The banks had remained closed at weekends since 1969.

"We cannot afford to sit back and watch this business being taken from us by the building societies and other institutions", Mr John Quinon, senior general manager commented when making the announcement.

In 1969, bank deposits totalled £9,200m, and the building societies' £8,600m. By

December 1983, the position had been dramatically reversed; the banks then held just under £54,000m, while the building societies had raced ahead to £73,000m.

In the past few years the banks have responded to the challenge by introducing a range of customer services - cheque guarantee cards (first introduced in 1966 by the then National Provincial Bank) credit cards, special savings and loan accounts, revolving credit accounts, home loans, insurance cash dispenser cards, and more flexible credit systems which do no rely on the old fashioned interview with the bank manager.

In the pipeline is a range of electronic wizardry which will, before long, allow the bank customer to buy his groceries at Sainsbury's or Marks & Spencer, and have the bill automatically debited to his bank account.

All the banks now offer cheque guarantee cards, and more than two million have been issued.

The high street banks had always lent money for house purchase, but it was a very small part of their business. But in 1980 they decided to go into home loans on a large scale. By March 1983 they were providing as many as one in three of

continued on page 21

A REVOLUTION IN BANKING

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Further details For further details and an application form please phone the HIBA Administration Centre on Romford (0708) 66666.

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*Rates of interest vary with market conditions. On 12th March 1984 the simple annual rate was 8.62%. The effective annual rate shown reflects the benefits of compounding as a result of crediting interest daily and assumes that the simple annual rate remains constant and that there are no withdrawals over 1 year.
†Calculated in accordance with the Consumer Credit (Total Charge for Credit) Regulations 1980 and includes the card charge of £2 per month.

ROBERT FLEMING, BANKERS

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150 من الأمل

London, still the centre of world banking

London's popularity as an international banking centre shows no signs of flagging. The number of foreign banks represented in the capital of the world's financial markets continues to increase and today only a handful of the world's top hundred banks have no presence here.

The world recession and the international debt problems have caused difficulties for many banks, making them increasingly cost conscious. Forbidding high rates and rents in the City have encouraged some banks with extensive operations to move back-office functions outside London. Others have simply shifted towards the West End and a few smaller ones have pulled out altogether. Over the past five years, for instance, about half a dozen banks a year have left.

However, newcomers have arrived in greater numbers. According to an annual survey by Noel Alexander Associates, 23 new banks arrived last year, seven leaving a total of 445 foreign banks with branches or representative offices. Nor does this include those banks represented through consortium banks whose inclusion would probably swell the total by a dozen or more.

The story of London's growth as a banking centre, mirroring the development and expansion of the Euromarkets of which London is the centre, is well charted. Excellent communications, a convenient time zone which provides overlap with both North America and the east and the fertile financial climate and helpful attitude of the regulatory authorities have contributed to the growth.



Foreign currency dealings in London run to billions of dollars daily. A touch on the screen allows deals to be completed by telephone within seconds.

Although many foreign banks use London only as a base for their international operations, arranging syndicated loans, trade finance and capital market operations, others have also come to play an important part in Britain's domestic economy.

The huge American bank, Citibank, for instance, now employs 2,500 in this country and after the London and Scottish clearers it has one of the biggest sterling balance sheets of any bank.

In the early 1970s the American banks carved themselves an important niche in corporate banking in this country with their relationship banking approach and medium term lending, mainly to larger companies. As the big clearing banks geared themselves to meet the challenge this end of the market has become increasingly competitive, forcing foreign banks to rethink.

Some, like the Bank of America, have concentrated on trying to stay one step ahead by

developing new financial products for their corporate customers. Others, in contrast to Citibank, have decided to scale down their United Kingdom operations.

Viewed in an international context, the British clearing banks rank with the biggest in the world and about half of their balance sheets are now denominated in foreign currencies. They are also among the most profitable in the world.

In common with other international banks their profitability has been slipping. IBCA Banking Analysis calculates that the return on average assets of United Kingdom banks declined from 1.21 per cent in 1979 to 0.67 per cent in 1982 - a trend broadly mirrored elsewhere. However the return of United Kingdom banks was still higher in 1982 than virtually anywhere else. The return on assets of United States banks for 1982 was 0.55 per cent, in Japan and Germany just under 0.2 per cent, 0.42 per

More boosts for small business

Although many new ways of helping small businesses have been explored by banks in the last few years, the traditional loan from the local bank still is the biggest single source of help for entrepreneurs either starting up or reaching out for growth.

National Westminster Bank, for instance, estimates that the extent of its help for small businesses is now well over the £4bn mark. A large proportion of this is still in normal overdrafts and loans, although its tailored Business Loan Development Scheme now accounts for a quarter of the bank's small business commitment.

Under the scheme there is fixed interest borrowing for amounts up to £250,000 for periods as long as 20 years. More than £500m was committed to loans under the scheme during 1983, aiding some 37,000 small businesses.

Under the Loans Guarantee Scheme (LGS) which gives banks much wider scope in lending to small businesses because the Government shoulders much of the financial risk - NatWest has now committed around £115m during the near three-years' life of the scheme. The bank estimates this has created employment for rather more than 12,000 people.

That is one glimpse of the way the big clearing banks can aid small businesses. Another comes from Barclays Bank, which puts its small business commitment at possibly £6bn. Some 85 per cent of its non-personal banking business

now involves small companies. Barclays has committed virtually as much as NatWest under the Loans Guarantee Scheme, and both banks are well ahead of the field. In proportion to their size all the high-street banks show similar patterns of lending, although the details of specially tailored schemes may vary.

For all the banks an entirely new dimension to lending has been added by the three-year LGS experiment. The present scheme ends in May, and its future is now being weighed by the Government.

The aim of LGS has been to make possible small business loans which would otherwise never have been made as when the principal of a new business is unable to offer any security. Under LGS a bank actually risks only 20 per cent of the loan; the Government underwrites the other 80 per cent. The person taking out the loan pays a 3 per cent premium as insurance.

At the end of February £454.8m had been advanced under the LGS, with nearly £240m going to about 7,455 new businesses, and rather more than £215m benefiting nearly 6,400 existing businesses.

Actual losses through business failures under the LGS have been running at 8 per cent about £36m but the key factor is the failure rate of businesses. At first at least one business in three was failing, and some banks have seen worse failure rates with start-ups. But a

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The struggle for your deposits

The building societies have long been a thorn in the side of British banks. Throughout the last decade they nibbled away at the banks' deposit bases, stealing an increasing share of the personal savings market.

In 1970, societies had just over one-third of personal sector deposits: now they have nearly half. By contrast the banks' share, over the same period has slipped from 43 to 36 per cent.

Over the past nine months in particular, societies have scooped up an enormous slice of the market because of the very attractive rates they have been paying to investors in an attempt to satisfy the bottomless demand for mortgages.

Success, however, has brought its own problems and new ones are looming for building societies. The banks have begun to fight back, moving into the societies' traditional territory of mortgage finance: they are also trying to compete more vigorously, even if fairly ineffectively so far, in the savings market.

The moves by building societies to offer more sophisticated services such as cheque books and cash dispensers, to name but two, have been characterised as aggressive forays - designed to take the battle to the banks by providing some of the services they have traditionally offered. Equally, however, the societies are responding to what their customers want and realise the importance of trying to stay a step ahead.

The recent National Consumer Council report on banking services highlighted an important advantage which building societies have over the banks: people find them much more friendly places and many would much rather go into a building society branch than a bank.

However the NCC research also showed that a majority of building society customers would like them to provide cheque books and many also want cash dispensers, standing orders and personal loans from their societies.

This is why it is so important for building societies to have new legislation which will allow them to carry out many more functions. Under the present legislative framework, which has changed little since 1874, building societies can only do

those things which the law says they can; essentially raise funds from their members to lend on the security of a mortgage. In theory anything not specified by the law is forbidden.

In practice this has meant that new services have often had to be provided through links with other financial institutions. Cheque books and credit cards are examples. Building societies have formed links with banks to provide these but having to rely on agreements with the competition is hardly a satisfactory state of affairs.

Legislative restrictions have also prevented societies from trying out new schemes. Last year the Halifax, Britain's biggest society, came up with a scheme to open an offshoot in the Isle of Man, which would pay interest to savers without deducting tax.

However, the combined opposition of Michael Bridgman, Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, who supervises the movement, and the Inland Revenue, led to the scheme being blocked. The Revenue was worried about widespread tax evasion if domestic depositors started moving their savings to the Isle of Man, encouraged by the respectable Halifax name.

The Building Societies Association's proposals on legislative change, to which the Government is due to respond with a Green Paper this summer, envisage societies being able to carry out a whole range of new functions.

The BSA report diplomatically stressed that societies do not want to depart from their traditional functions as housing, finance and savings institutions but rather want to add to their range of services in these fields. The report recommends allowing societies to own land and carry out housing development; provide services to homebuyers such as conveyancing, surveys and estate agency.

These would include insurance and, crucially, a limited amount of unsecured loans and overdrafts which in turn would make it possible for societies to provide other simple banking services like cheque books and credit cards.

There are those even within the movement who fear that these kind of proposals are going to open a Pandora's box. Even among the big societies, which to a degree inevitably dominate the BSA and the ideas it puts forward, there are many differing views on how societies should develop.

New legislation for the societies when it comes will similarly, if to a lesser extent, be an example of the institutional framework trying to keep pace with the changes on the ground. For all that, the years ahead are still fraught with dangers for the societies.

P.W.S.

Instant cash

continued from page 20

all new home loans, and at the peak of their activity - August 1981 to August 1982 - the four high street banks were lending around £1,000m a year each.

Lower interest rates and much greater demand for home loans than they had expected forced the banks to draw in their horns during 1983, but at the beginning of this year they crept quietly back into the market, and home loans are, without doubt seen by customers as an important contribution to improved service.

The banks' main advantages in this field are the speed at which they give a decision on a loan application, and the fact that they lend much larger sums than the building societies.

In 1981, Lloyds Bank introduced 100 per cent home loans and several others followed suit, forcing the building societies to do likewise at least for first-time buyers.

It was in this area that Barclays made its big mistake over Saturday banking. Barclays threw open its doors to customers in August 1982 - just as it made the decision to cut back on home loans. To attract new customers, home loans had to be available, but the high street banks were by this time reserving mortgages for customers of at least six months standing and Barclays found

itself opening its doors to hordes of people who merely wanted to cash cheques.

Cash dispenser machines, which give customers 24-hour access to cash at the press of a button have proved so popular that new ones are constantly being installed to meet demand. Queues are frequently seen outside a bank waiting to use a cash machine - while tellers sit idle inside. The banks have several explanations for the popularity of the machines. The main reason seems to be that people use them to withdraw small amounts - which they would be embarrassed to do from a teller.

The building societies originally planned to install machines that would dispense cash to customers of all the societies. Inter-society rivalry, however, led to a claim that the chief beneficiaries of such a scheme would be the small societies, now only eight of the top 12 aim to go ahead. Halifax already has its own scheme working and plans to have 250 machines in operation by the end of this year.

Some banks have seen the building societies as a potential source of new business and there have been a series of tie-ups. Bank of Scotland has been particularly innovative, signing a deal with the Nottingham Building Society to provide computerized home banking (Homelink) and a similar tie-up with the Alliance Building Society offer customers the best of both worlds.

Lorna Bourke

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BRITISH BANKING

The new battle in the City

The race to serve the big battalions of industry has reached its fiercest down the alleyways of the City in recent years. Tasks which were formerly the preserve of the clearing banks have come under intense competition, both from foreign banks eager to grab a slice of the action and from younger domestic competitors who think nothing of making cold calls to offer a potential client an imaginative new idea.

The reason for this hectic activity is simple. The business of supplying large-scale finance and other services to established companies apparently defies the laws of economics. It is generally less risky than nurturing seedling enterprises, but the returns can be extremely large, no matter whether they are calculated as fees or a percentage commission.

Client companies have, for their part, become far more

receptive to new ideas from banking advisers. Growing multinational competition in their own industries has given them a strong incentive to make better use of their money and the other resources at their disposal. Two of the most dramatic innovations since the war, the share-exchange takeover bid and the Eurodollar, have transformed the range of possibilities for many groups.

The result of these upheavals

has been a fundamental shift in the traditional boundaries of the banking world. The process has some way to go yet, and it will take even longer before many of the actors get used to their new roles.

As the bastions of tradition, and as caution and prudence are two of their deepest instincts, it is the clearing banks which have been most acutely confronted with the problem of how to cope with change. If they pick up their skirts and rush helter-skelter into the new fashions, they could lose the trust and confidence of many customers, and would in some cases find it harder to resist increasingly speculative demands for finance.

But if they ignore the tide of events they could face continual incursions into their traditional business and suffer the demoralizing feeling that they were missing some excellent commercial opportunities.

Part of the answer has lain in the clearers' development of separate merchant banking arms. One, the Midland, has achieved this by taking an interest in an established merchant bank, Samuel Montagu. The other three of the big four have preferred to start from scratch.

Some corporate services have tended to remain in the hands of the clearing banks, largely because of economies of scale. Running a share register or operating a payroll are two such examples. So is the routine business of processing a company's daily turnover of cheques.

They are a convenient way for a bank to cover its extensive overheads of staff and premises, and few other organizations are inclined to amass similar overheads just to put themselves in a position to compete for that type of business.

Conversely, it has never been the clearers' job to raise money,



Clearing cheques at NatWest, Goodman's Fields, London

as opposed to lending it. Their reputation rests on having a seemingly bottomless vessel of money to lend where a proposition meets their requirements. Their historic stance has been not to act but to react.

The merchant banks have been the initiators, the opportunists, the problem-solvers, working from a much lower capital base and relying on contacts, sharp wits and the ability to create opportunities.

Within recent memory, it was the merchant bank Charterhouse Japhet which was credited with the notion of putting together a consortium of institutional investors to make a takeover bid for F. W. Woolworth, the stores chain which was unloved by its United States parent and too indigestible for any other retail group. An attempt to deal with the UDS in similar fashion was overtaken by a higher offer

from Hanson Trust.

These cases are in contrast to the clearing banks' experience in nursing industrial companies through the worst of the recession in what has become known as intensive care. The clearers have drawn lessons from the merchant banks in their efforts to be more flexible in dealing with apparently terminal cases. The alternative, after all, was to bankrupt vast tracts of British industry and risk being accused of causing untold social misery.

Lending to the limit

In the process the banks have undoubtedly stretched their lending criteria to the limit, and beyond. But it is significant that, to the outsider at least, they have opted for that approach rather than the typical

merchant banking attempt to turn a problem on its head and come up with a completely fresh type of solution.

A clearing banker could justifiably retort that an insolvent heavy engineering company is a very different proposition from even the most fly-blown retail chain, and it has always been open to a merchant banker to pick up the phone to the clearers and come up with a brilliant suggestion. Nevertheless, some of the most publicized failures of the intensive care system have been accompanied by vehement protests that the situation could have been saved with another ounce of imagination from the banks.

And in one case, Stone-Platt, part of the business has re-emerged within a couple of years to earn a fresh share quote in its own right.

None of this is to denigrate

the banks' efforts. It merely highlights a difference of long-term training. The trouble is that in the present climate of trampled barriers and free-for-all competition, the invaders have the upper hand.

Most worrying for the clearers is the erosion of their mainstream lending. They have long had to accept that many competitors had sufficiently good names to be able to join in the business of giving guarantees on third-party finance, particularly for export, in return for a fee. What they have always had up their sleeve is access to extremely low-cost money which they could use to compete in the corporate overdraft market.

That money, of course, came from the millions of current accounts. But, despite a near-doubling of the number of account-holders, that source is drying up because the customer is now more aware of the need to keep money working for them. This has thrown the banks into areas such as the money market, the Eurodollar market, the mortgage market, where they have to compete on no better than equal terms and in some instances with at least one arm tied behind their backs.

The clearers are having to fight for wholesale money at street level with a growing army of foreign banks, all keen to shave the rates wafer-thin. As if that were not enough, it looks as if one of the banks' recent perks, leasing finance, is drying up. If a bank buys a machine and leases it to a pre-arranged customer, the bank can claim the cost of the machine against corporation tax. But leasing, a fast-growing activity in the past decade, was already beginning to tail off even before the latest Budget proposals.

It adds up to a picture which some bankers will regard as dismal, others as challenging. In the end, it is those who pick up the challenge who will survive.

William Kay
City Editor

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CHAPS moves into the electronic age

Already this year, with CHAPS - the Clearing House Automated Payments System - British banking has taken its biggest step yet into the new electronic age of banking automation. The change ushers in new standards of efficiency, with banks able to make payments to each other instantaneously by computer instead of sending myriad pieces of paper around the City of London by messengers.

But other automation changes are coming through which will make a more obvious impact on the normal

bank customer. New generations of machines can now offer, at the touch of a few buttons, services which hitherto have been available only through counter staff. It will mean push-button banking, not only in a customer's branch, but eventually in the home.

For the individual bank customer the biggest change is the widening availability of automatic teller machines (ATMs), commonly in "through the wall" locations outside bank branches. Cash can be withdrawn, and some offer additional functions such as ordering a bank statement or a new chequebook.

At the end of last year there were 5,309 ATMs, half as many again as in 1982. By the end of this year it is planned to have 6,470 in operation at about half of all bank branches.

National Westminster Bank, which has around 1,000 ATMs, has a reciprocal agreement with Midland Bank which allows customers of both banks to use each other's ATM network. This gives a total ATM spread for customers of 1,800. NatWest is also installing a new generation of cash dispensing machines which disgorge money more quickly than an ATM. An encoded card is "wiped" through a sensor box, a personal identification number is keyed in by the customer, and within 15 seconds cash is dispensed.

Since October last year NatWest has been experimenting at a Basingstoke branch with a more advanced automated banking service, which has led to extended banking hours being on offer from 9.15 am to 4.45 pm from Monday to Friday.

At the touch of a keyboard cash can be drawn out or details of accounts can be called up. Two newly developed account information service terminals allow customers to obtain a range of information such as a check on the last 20 items on personal accounts. More details on specific entries can be called up. Answers come up on a small television screen or can be printed out.

The projected cabling of more homes, although intended primarily for television programmes, will also provide the chance to introduce instant access to the banks.

Point of sale transfers

The banks are also moving towards a revolutionary payments system for shops and other key transaction points such as railway stations, hotels and petrol stations. This is the system known as electronic funds transfer at point of sale (EFTPOS). At the heart of this is a terminal at which customers would use a bank card, keying in a personal identification number. A computerized hook-up would allow immediate bill payments by transferring money from a customer's bank account to that of the retailer.

The clearing banks are now committed to setting up a national EFTPOS system, and the aim is to have the pilot scheme operational by 1986.

Even before this year's introduction of the CHAPS system automation had moved a long way in inter-bank operations. Bankers' Automated Clearing Services (BACS), which deal with company payments and collections such as payroll credit transfers, first began operations in 1969. Now some 12 million auto-

mated money transfers pass through BACS each week.

Internationally, bank automation has gained from the introduction of SWIFT, the international communications network through which banks send payment instructions to each other electronically.

The CHAPS system went live

in February to banks in the City but will ultimately offer the whole country an electronic means of making same-day payments. It applies to settlements of £10,000 or more. On its first day £32m was cleared through the system without a hitch, made up of more than 1,000 individual payments.

The system represents the most advanced use of modern technology in the world, according to Mr Eric Simmonds, the CHAPS project manager. Trials have shown the system can handle as many as 8,000 transactions every half-hour.

The CHAPS system could be particularly useful in complicated one-day settlements, such as a house sale, when funds need to be transferred from buyers' to sellers' solicitors before contracts are exchanged.

Despite the successful launch controversy, still dogs the CHAPS system. Of the 200 or so banks which might use it so far, 40 have signed on. But many of them are the clearing banks which have set up the system, so those in the scheme already account for nearly two thirds of the potential traffic.

Many City merchant banks, as well as foreign banks, have not joined the scheme. Their worries have included costs, a cut-off time which is half-an-hour earlier than the manual town clearance system, and the lack of a fully common interface between the clearing banks and those outside.

Derek Harris
Commercial Editor



Using a CHAPS computer to make same-day payments

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Cataldi can get Harwood off to a flying start

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Even the most hardened addict of Flat racing must concede that the new season will begin on a tame note at Doncaster today. My idea of the best bet on the card is Cataldi, the French-trained, Guineas-trained, even though the promising Bold Indian is among his opponents.

By that good horse, Wolver, Khaled Abdullah, 170,000 guineas when he was a yearling. In the second of his two races last year Cataldi finished fourth at Newmarket, beaten less than three lengths by Bob Back, who won the coveted Premio Tevere in Rome afterwards. The form of his Newmarket race received another boost at Doncaster last year when the third horse, Falstaff, finished fourth in the William Hill Futurity.

From today Michael Phillips will use the pen name "Mandarin" marking his entry into The Sporting Life newspaper.

Bold Indian's placed form behind Keen at Ascot in July and Alleging at Newmarket in September augured well for his second season, but I still prefer Cataldi who looked fit and full of the joys of spring when I saw him out at exercise at Pulborough on Tuesday along with numerous other horses trained there by Guy Harwood.

Karabake, Harwood's other runner today should also go well in the Bertie Bassett Handicap Stakes, but I doubt whether he will beat Keelby Kavalier over only a mile and a half, especially as his best form last season was over further.

Also Keelby Kavalier will be as hard as iron after a winter spell huddling with considerable success.

It was over today's course and distance that he won a similar race last May and judged on his recent performances at Cheltenham, where he was runner-up to Browne's Gazette, and Kempton Park, where he was second to I Haventlight, he could easily be in the right frame of mind to win another.

The presence of Lester Piggott on Tetrone Bay's back for the Doncaster Mile will guarantee plenty of support in the betting shops up and down the country for Richard Hannon's four-year-old, who will like the ground. However, in this instance I prefer Spanish Place, trained by Barry Hills and ridden by Steve Cauthen. Last season Spanish Place's best performance was arguably his first at Newmarket where he was runner-up to Muscatelli in the Craven Stakes.

Leading Artist, my selection for the Louise Stockdale Challenge Cup Handicap Chase at Towcester last Saturday when he was runner-up to Dishcloth, especially when one considers that it was his first race for four months. That exercise must have done him a power of good and now that he will be running on some of his favourite courses again, and better still on ground that he relishes, he should be hard to beat.

Peter Anthony ran well enough in the Imperial Cup at Sandown Park recently - also after a long rest - to suggest that he could be the one to be on for the Piper Champagne Handicap Hurdle. Incidentally, the sponsor of the race, Piper Heidsieck, announced yesterday that they are to sponsor six races on the Flat this summer at York, Newbury, Nottingham, Leicester and Lingfield Park.



Habibti: ready to race tomorrow, but will not be seen until June

Habibti still the scene-stealer in Dunlop's earthly paradise

By Michael Seely

Habibti, last season's European champion sprinter, will have his first race of the new campaign at Lingfield Park on June 1. John Dunlop, the flying Irish trainer, said yesterday: "Habibti's so well. She's all ready to go. I wish there was a race for her tomorrow. But there are no group one races for sprinters before the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot. The conditions of the Lingfield race make it look an ideal preparation."

Last season Habibti was unanimously voted racehorse of the year. Her four victories in top-class sprints, including the William Hill sponsored July Cup and Prix de l'Abeille at Longchamp, helped to carry Dunlop into second place in the trainers' table behind Dick Hern with 89 winners of races worth £473,324. This total, combined with the £397,519 won by his horses abroad, made the 44-year-old Ulsterman leading trainer in terms of prize money amassed. As a result, Dunlop was named as one of the principal contributors to his winglings with their triumphs in the Gran Premio del Jockey Club in Milan and the Irish St Leger at the Curragh.

The free-living slopes of Arundel Park seem like an earthly paradise on a sunny spring morning, and it was interesting to talk to Dunlop about Shaheen Dancer after watching Habibti's magnificent 510 m record-priced yearling at exercise.

"I realise the enormous natural

public curiosity about such an expensive horse, but there's really nothing to say at this stage of his development," Dunlop said. "Shaheen Dancer has a marvellously relaxed temperament. However, he is still so backward that we haven't given enough any serious work to be able to comment on his ability. He is most unlikely to race before the summer."

Students of these matters will be aware that Shaheen Dancer, the 53m yearling who Michael Stoute transferred into a \$40m stallion, was also not seen in action until the August of his two-year-old career.

Was it one of 179 horses in training at Castle Stables. Last season's Irish 2,000 Guineas winner, Shaheen Dancer, was one of the principal trainers at his principal training, "Ten furlongs could be Wast's ideal distance, and races like the Lockings Stakes at Newbury and the Brigadier Gerard stakes at Sandown would appear to be the natural progression."

Timeform speak well of Sir Rex Cohen's colt and they also comment favourably on Hot Rodder, a bay colt by Foeil who is a full brother to the stable's high-class milo, Posse.

In 1983 Hot Hawk's four victories in top races at home and in France and Ireland made Shaheen Dancer's three-year-old the most progressive colt in training. Dunlop considers Birdwood, Celtic Assembly, Circus Pains, Cements and Out of Shot to be capable of making improvement on their two-year-old form.

"It will be asking too much to think that any of these might turn out to be another High Hawk, but all five fillies have obvious potential," Dunlop said. Cements is a half sister to Runnett and Rutland.

Premio Parioli. It's the Italian equivalent of the 2,000 Guineas. Dunlop said. Once again the Swiss trainer is intending to exploit the European pattern-race system.

Possessed of an incisive and realistic mind, Dunlop is traditionally inclined to undercall his hand when assessing his well-bred and expensive horses. "Cherry Hill, Hot Rodder, Sam M and Luminate all have potential, but it is too early to be making any grand plans for them."

Cherry Hill is sired by Arundel's 1978 Derby winner, Shaheen Heights, and ran with immense promise when third to Roninella at the Newmarket July meeting. Timeform speak well of Sir Rex Cohen's colt and they also comment favourably on Hot Rodder, a bay colt by Foeil who is a full brother to the stable's high-class milo, Posse.

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ATHLETICS

Waitz can make this show run and run

From Pat Butcher New York

Gretz Waitz's decision to attempt an unprecedented sixth time in the world cross-country championships here on Sunday will probably do as much as anything to convert Americans to this sport.

Special running lanes for joggers on the roads through and around Central Park testify to the impact of the marathon, and Mrs Waitz, of Norway, is almost a US national heroine after her four victories in the New York marathon. But cross-country running is considered even more eccentric here than in Britain, where it began a century ago.

Mrs Waitz decided only a month ago that she would not run the Rotterdam marathon in April. She has left her first race to run here after she had said last year that we had seen her last cross-country race. She has not competed in cross-country since winning her fifth world title in Garmisch last March, but she said yesterday that after the inclusion of some speed work in her last month's training, she should be able to cope with the five-kilometre course.

There will be much interest in how she copes with Marica Pucica, who beat Mrs Waitz in this championship in Rome two years ago. Miss Pucica, a Russian, was injured last year and did not race but the course here at Meadowlands is a horse-race track similar to the one in Rome.

SKIING

Miss Hess holds the upper hand

Zwiesel, West Germany (AFP) - Tamara McKinnis, of the United States, the 1983 World Cup winner, won the last women's giant slalom of the season here yesterday, to set up a showdown between Erica Hess, of Switzerland, and Hanneli Wenzel, of Liechtenstein, for the 1984 trophy in Oslo tomorrow.

Miss Hess, who leads Miss Wenzel by nine points, was second yesterday, and won the giant slalom title as a result, neither woman improved her overall score, under the points system which counts only the four best results in each category. Miss Hess will win the cup, if she finishes at least second in the closing slalom.

If Miss Hess finishes third tomorrow, she will earn three points, but Miss Wenzel stands to gain 16 points for a victory, giving her the overall title by four points.

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Licensing of sex shops code is not mandatory

HIS LORDSHIP said that paragraph 7 of Part II of Schedule 1 to the Education Act 1944 provided that a local education authority should consider a report from its education committee before exercising its education functions.

The committee had no power so to authorize its chairman, and the committee's minute recording that it had reconsidered the matter, invited representations to be made to the authority and authorized the chairman to make a recommendation did not constitute a report for the purpose of paragraph 7.

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Committee is unable to delegate decisions

HIS LORDSHIP said that paragraph 7 of Part II of Schedule 1 to the Education Act 1944 provided that a local education authority should consider a report from its education committee before exercising its education functions.

The committee had no power so to authorize its chairman, and the committee's minute recording that it had reconsidered the matter, invited representations to be made to the authority and authorized the chairman to make a recommendation did not constitute a report for the purpose of paragraph 7.

Manager/Manageress
Minimum 2 years retail experience. Staff management capabilities, merchandising skills, stock control awareness.
Please phone for an appointment
01 589 5826

HARLEY STREET
Dermatologist needs resilient
Secretary with medical or
nursing experience to run a
busy practice with efficiency,
punctuality and sympathy. 5
day week, salary negotiable.
Ring 01 935 9727

Dynamic Secretary
Knightsbridge commercial law practice needs calm, efficient Secretary. Pos. sense of humour appreciated in return for top salary, stimulating atmosphere and luxurious working conditions.
Telephone: 01-584 4373

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

You may not
Access or View
placing your

Now use your
a Card when
advertising

General Appointments

Wir sind Marktführer mit unserem Franchise-System im Bereich Dienstleistung und Handwerk. 450 PORTAS-Partnerunternehmen arbeiten in 10 Ländern Europas und werden von uns betreut. Wir suchen für sofort oder zum nächstmöglichen Termin einen

Franchise-Berater im Außendienst

zur Betreuung und Beratung unserer Fachbetriebe in England.

Folgende Voraussetzungen sollten Sie erfüllen: Abgeschlossene kaufmännische Ausbildung, längere erfolgreiche Außendienst Erfahrung, technisches Einfühlungsvermögen und Verhandlungsgeschick. Unser neuer Mitarbeiter sollte 30 bis 40 Jahre alt und zu einer intensiven Reisebereitschaft bereit sein. Eine gründliche Einarbeitung ist gewährleistet. Ebenfalls für diesen Raum suchen wir einen

Top-Direktverkäufer

zur verkaufstechnischen Unterstützung und Beratung unserer Organisation. Voraussetzung für beide Positionen ist: Muttersprache englisch und gute deutsche Sprachkenntnisse.

Wir bieten ein leistungsgerechtes Gehalt mit zusätzlicher Provisionsregelung. Firmenwagen mit privater Nutzung, großzügige Sozialregelung sowie die Sicherheiten und Sozialleistungen eines Großunternehmens.

Bitte richten Sie Ihre Bewerbung an:
PORTAS Deutschland GmbH
z. Hd. Herrn Peter K. Simons
Dieselstraße 1-3
West-Germany
6057 Dietzenbach

PORTAS

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

(Designate)

RETAIL DISTRIBUTION

West Yorkshire c. \$283,000 neg + car etc.

Our client operates a successful chain of retail stores throughout the North of England. The company is profitable and turnover is growing rapidly to \$30M.

Reporting to the Chairman, the successful candidate will assume responsibility for the total financial and administrative function of the business.

Important pre-requisites must include:

- 1 Above average technical ability to meet the on-going demands of a business where effective communication is of prime importance.
- 2 A commercial awareness where your recommendations and/or decisions have had a direct result in the improvement of business efficiency. Ideally within a retail or multi-branch operation.
- 3 The proven ability to produce accurate financial and management information to strict pre-established deadlines.

The appointment will offer every opportunity for an ambitious, qualified accountant (ACA, ACMA, ACCA) aged 28 to 40 to make a very real contribution to the continuing success of this well established, commercially sound and positive thinking organisation. Ref: 84/480 ST. Relocation expenses will be met in appropriate circumstances.

Apply to the first instance to Brian R. Daniels or Ann Bates, Daniels Bates Partnership, Josephine Wall, Riverside Walk, Park Lane, Leeds, LS9 1AS. Tel: (0534) 461874 (Two Lines). Please quote the appropriate reference number.

Daniels Bates Partnership
PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

FEATURES EDITOR

The Features Editor, reporting directly to the Editor, will be a senior member of a compact management team with complementary professional skills and experience. He/she will be closely involved with most aspects of managing and editing Accounts, and play a key part in ensuring that it continues to be both a journal of the highest quality and a continuing commercial success.

The candidate, who must have a recognised accounting qualification and should preferably be a graduate, will be expected to demonstrate:

- * a knowledge of, and interest in accounting and auditing, standards, taxation, finance and management;
- * writing talent; and
- * ability to deal with people at a high level.

He/she will be expected to have up-to-date technical knowledge coupled with sound experience, preferably gained with a professional firm of some substance.

Applications, which should include a curriculum vitae, should be addressed to: Mrs. C. Hoodless, Personnel Manager, The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, P.O. Box 433, Chartered Accountants Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BJ.

Accountancy

Journal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales

Chief Executive

Bedford — c. £24,000

Centred on the historic county town of Bedford, the Borough of North Bedfordshire is one of England's larger District Councils serving a population of 133,000. It plays a positive role in the economic and social life of the area, being a significant property owner and developer in its own right.

With the impending retirement of Mr Cyril Osborn the council is seeking a new Chief Executive to provide motivation, leadership and direction in the implementation of the Council's policies.

Previous local Government experience is not a pre-requisite.

Details from:
Peter McIntosh Recruitment Officer
Town Hall Bedford
(0234) 67422 Ext. 166

Financial Administrator

Required by distributors of quality products situated in West End of London. If you have book-keeping and some computer knowledge and have the resourcefulness to administer financial affairs and the drive to attain growth within a small but energetic team, then you are the right applicant. Commencing salary £8,750 pa - but with ample opportunities for advancement.

Please write to: CSI Ltd, 28 Bolton Street, London, W1.

Editor

Opportunity for young graduate to gain valuable experience with an educational trust which gives free advice on the choice of independent schools. You will have full responsibility for three directories. We seek someone with self-reliance, good communication skills, literacy and attention to detail.

Send CV with names of three referees to: The Truman & Trotter Educational Trust (trf: LH), 76-78 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3JJ.

PER Professional & Executive Recruitment

ARABIC TRANSLATOR

Urgently required for Arabic publishing house in Central London. Must be very competent in both Arabic and English with Arabic mother tongue. Minimum 5 years' experience. Good salary for right applicant. Send CV and any other relevant information to: Box 2493 H The Times.

ADMINISTRATOR

George Knight and Partners is London's largest agency specialising in the letting and management of residential property with a fleet of cars. We seek an Executive with full experience in Property Law and maintenance to head our secretariat. He/she should be aged under 45, acceptable for security clearance and a non-smoker. Initial salary £12,000 with substantial increase and bonus in early 1985. Car provided. Please send application for the personal attention of **GEORGE KNIGHT** 9 Heath Street NW1

Graduate Engineers

IMMEDIATE VACANCIES IN OIL INDUSTRY

UK and INTERNATIONAL. ATTRACTIVE SALARY and BENEFITS

You will be trained to operate and maintain our electronic equipment which is used to survey, service and monitor oil and gas wells worldwide. The work is extremely varied, demanding and requires considerable personal flexibility - it is certainly not a 9-5 job. Due to expansion the following vacancies have arisen:

MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS

Electronic Engineers with practical experience in maintaining and repairing Analog and Digital equipment.

FORMATION TESTERS

Engineers with practical knowledge and experience in hydraulics and electronics. Applicants should be less than 28 years, physically fit and hold a current driving licence.

For more information please telephone or write enclosing a C.V. to:

T. Hoyer, Dresser Atlas, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RJ, England. Tel: (01) 584 7065.

Executive Selection Consultancy

Our consultants are actively involved in providing advice and assistance at board level to a wide variety of businesses (both large and small). A broad range of personnel and commercial skills are utilised in the assessment and selection of senior executives and the work often entails specific advice on organisation, remuneration and management development.

We are the management consultancy company of Thomson McIntosh & Co, which is the British member of KMG, one of the largest international accounting and consultancy groups. We offer a wide variety of interesting assignments, a structured training programme in the latest management techniques and an opportunity to develop personnel and management skills.

Our requirement is for graduates, aged around 30, with several years' selection experience. A successful record in industry or commerce is also sought, coupled with a lively mind and strong technical and personal skills.

Remuneration: up to £18,000 plus car. Location: London.

Please write in confidence to CT Garcia (Ref:20061S).

TML KMG

Thomson McIntosh Associates

70 Finsbury Pavement London EC2A 1SX

REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER

Scale 32 : £17,046 to £21,230

The main task of this new post of Regional Information Systems Manager is to create a Regional Information Network. Our clinicians and managers are demanding more accurate and up-to-date information to assist them in their operational work and in the management of health services in the Region.

The Regional Information Systems Manager will manage the innovation, development and maintenance of information systems in the Region, within the policies, objectives and standards set by the RHA.

The successful candidate will be very familiar with modern information technology, computing processes and current developments in communication systems. He/she will be a 'systems' thinker, able to formulate longer term aims for the use of information and to plan the implementation of major changes in managerial and operational practices.

For further information about this post, please telephone John Hoare, the Regional Administrator, on Winchester (0962) 63511. A job description and application form, together with a copy of the Regional Information Systems Plan 1984, can be obtained from the Regional Personnel Officer, Wessex RHA, Highcroft, Romsey Road, Winchester, SO22 5DH; telephone Winchester (0962) 63511. Closing date for receipt of applications: April 16th 1984.

WESSEX
REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

Electronics Graduates in Engineering Support

Full Marks for Technical Merit and Artistic Impression.

BBC broadcasting engineers need a blend of talents. Sheer technical expertise and strong artistic appreciation are combined in a uniquely satisfying career. Ours is a truly national service covering the major events from topically the World Ice Dance & Figure Skating Championships to a variety of light entertainment, drama, documentary and educational programmes.

The BBC's world is growing. For graduate Engineers with a talent for electronics and a fascination for show business, we offer a challenging future developing, maintaining and operating the complex technical facilities that make our programmes possible. Much of our equipment has been developed in-house and sets the state-of-the-art in broadcasting.

There are opportunities right now for men and women with a British Degree in Electrical Engineering or an equivalent HNC or Higher ETEC Diploma in Electronics. Normal hearing and colour vision is essential.

Salaries currently are on a scale from £7758 rising to £9374 in London. New pay scales apply from April 1984. Allowances of about £1000 pa are paid in addition to the above basic salaries to cover the irregular hours of work.

For further information, please complete and return the coupon below to:

The Engineering Recruitment Officer BBC, PO Box 28L, London W1A 2BL

The Engineering Recruitment Officer
BBC, PO Box 28L, London W1A 2BL

Name: _____
Address: _____
Home tel. no. _____ Age: _____

My qualifications are: (please tick as appropriate)
☐ HND/HNC Electrical Engineering
☐ Higher ETEC Diploma Electronics
☐ Electrical/Electronics Degree ☐ C & G ETEC 271

Please quote ref 84.E.034 in any covering correspondence.

BBC engineering
Making an Art of Technology

The HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL is the national body responsible for the increasingly important role of health promotion in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Council's Public Affairs Division is already responsible for extensive mass media advertising campaigns and a wide range of publications designed to promote better health.

It now intends to launch fresh initiatives, including sports sponsorship, collaboration with companies committed to 'healthy' policies, involvement with radio and television programmes and the encouragement of mass participation health programmes. To assist this expanded programme the Council seeks applications for the following posts:

Health Events Organiser

In June 1985 the HEC is sponsoring a Great British Fun Run, a relay race through many of the major towns in Britain. The event will be the first of its kind and likely to draw a huge response. In each town the GBFR passes through, it is the HEC's intention to co-ordinate a series of short distance fun runs, a health fair, and a week of health events leading up to it.

The Council wishes to recruit a dynamic organiser to co-ordinate the month-long programme of events around the country. He or she must have proven experience in managing or promoting large-scale initiatives in sport, voluntary activities or health promotion. An ability to motivate others and remain enthusiastic despite setbacks is crucial.

The successful applicant would be primarily concerned with the Great British Fun Run until June 1985; thereafter using the experience gained in the event to mount fresh schemes involving participation in health events.

Salary: £10,251 - £10,851 (inclusive)

Publicity Assistant

To assist the work of the Council's Promotions Officer and Advertising Liaison Officer, the Council wishes to appoint a Publicity Assistant. The assistant would be responsible for administrative support to both officers, maintaining records and monitoring expenditure. He or she would liaise with the Council's advertising agencies and assist the operation of our promotion and sponsorship activities. Applicants should be able to work as part of an energetic team offering fresh ideas for capturing the public's imagination about health.

Applicants should have experience of advertising or publicity campaign planning and administration and the ability to work independently under pressure.

Salary: £7,455 - £9,087 (inclusive).

Media Assistant

To provide an efficient service to journalists and broadcasters, and to contribute to the Council's own publications, the HEC seeks an experienced journalist to act as Media Assistant. As well as dealing with enquiries from journalists and assisting the Council's Press Officer, Michael Jacob, applicants will be expected to support the Council's increasing collaboration with radio and television programmes. He or she should also be able to monitor expenditure and handle administration, and maintain a reliable information service for the Public Affairs Division.

Applicants should have experience in journalism or broadcasting, proven writing ability and a willingness to contribute new ideas for health promotion.

Salary: £8,382 - £9,087 (inclusive).

Further details about the posts and application forms may be obtained by writing to: Mr. T. J. Cartwright MA, Assistant Secretary: Personnel & Administration, The Health Education Council, 78 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1AH.

Completed applications should reach the Council by 4 April 1984.

SHAC

The London Housing Aid Centre is looking for and

Appeals Organiser

who will, with SHAC's Director, be responsible for SHAC's fundraising programme (currently £250,000 p.a.). This will involve recruiting and implementing annual fundraising plans to enable SHAC to continue and develop its work for the homeless and badly housed. To do this job, you must be resourceful, imaginative and ready to work on your own initiative. You must also be able to organise a heavy and varied workload efficiently within tight deadlines, including servicing SHAC's fundraising committee. You should be able to present information, both verbally and in writing, in a concise and convincing manner. Previous fundraising and/or marketing experience desirable. Starting salary, £9,000+. Six weeks holiday per annum. Subsidised car.

The Administrator, SHAC, 188A Old Brompton Road, London, SW5 0AR. Telephone: 01-373 7841.

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR

A qualified Hospital Administrator is required to run a 40-bed private hospital in West London.

Write with full details to:-

5P-A SYSTEM

27 Chayne Walk, Grange Park, London N21 1DB

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

requires a

DIVISIONAL SECRETARY

Land Agency and Agriculture

The RICS has a membership of 71,000, organised in seven Divisions representing their professional interests, one of which is land agency and agriculture.

The Divisional Secretary is responsible for advising on policy and for the efficient administration of the Division and the work of its Council, Committee and Working Parties. Other duties include liaison with public bodies and private organisations connected with agriculture, forestry and other rural activities. A job specification is available on request.

Applications are invited from graduates, preferably in a discipline relevant to the work of the Division, or persons with other relevant qualifications. Experience of administration at a senior level will be an advantage. Preferred age 35-45.

SALARY RANGE £14,000 - £16,000 pa

The person appointed will be expected to join the staff in October 1984, with a view to taking over the post when the present incumbent retires in December. Closing date for applications - 17 April 1984.

Applications with c.v. (and daytime telephone number) to: The Personnel Officer, R.I.C.S., 12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, London SW1P 3AD. Telephone: 01-222 7000 Ext. 212

General Appointments

The most successful business ever launched in America lands in Britain.

In February, 1982 a company was formed in Houston, Texas that was destined to make computer history.

In its first 12 months of operation the Compaq Computer Corporation achieved the most successful first-year ever in the history of American business.

After product announcement in November, 1982 the first computer delivery was made in January, 1983. Only 9 months later turnover had reached \$60 million and the market began to call our progress sensational.

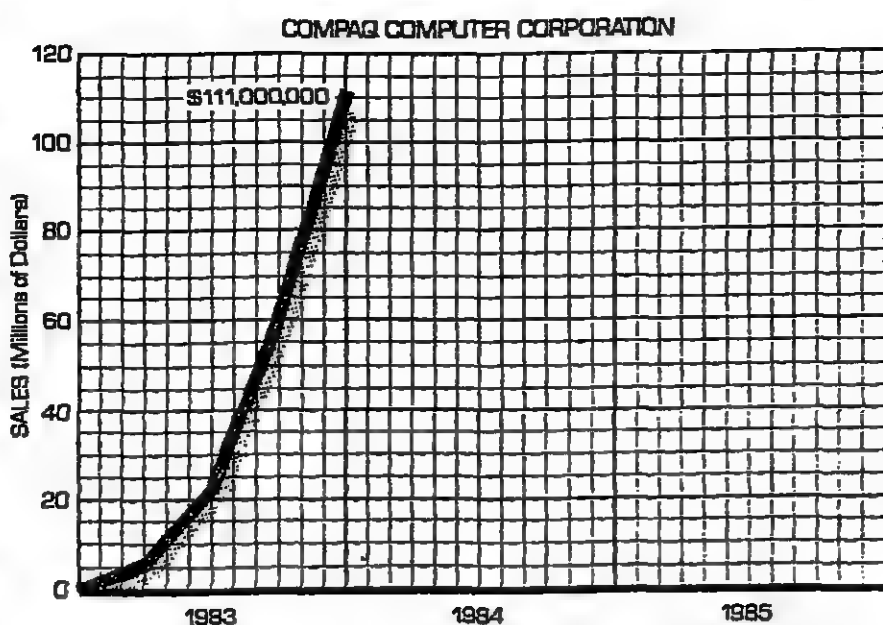
You won't consider this too much of an exaggeration when we tell you that our turnover for 1983 was in excess of \$111 million. And 1984 promises to be even more remarkable.

What has made the Compaq Portable and Compaq Plus computers so astonishingly successful? Quite simply, they're better than the rest.

In a desk machine small enough to carry about in a lightweight case you have a computer compatible with IBM PC hardware and software programmes and with a capacity of up to 10 megabytes fixed disc (the equivalent of complete payroll information for 6,302 employees).

Take off in a challenging career.

Compaq Computer Limited confidently expects it will achieve the same



spectacular results in the European market as it has in the USA. And, right now, it is setting up its organisation here in the United Kingdom.

We know we have a first class product. Now we are looking for first class people - top calibre performers with the knowledge, drive and ambition to keep up with, and contribute to, the company's rapid progress in Britain. The scope is unlimited

and the rewards considerable.

If you feel you are the right person for any of the positions below please write, in the strictest confidence, giving your curriculum vitae, to The Personnel Director, Compaq Computer Ltd., 35 Piccadilly, London W1V 9PB. Please specify job description.

The most successful business ever launched in America will soon take off in Britain.

COME AND JOIN US

Regional Sales Managers

Area: Scotland, North, Midlands, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, London and South West, London and South East.

Age: 25-35, possess a degree or similar qualification and have proven track record in the micro computer sales environment.

Job Description: To establish and develop a network of Compaq authorised dealers primarily geared to service the business sector of the personal computer market. The ideal candidate must ensure a high level of pre and post sales dealer support as well as having the commercial acumen to assist dealers in all elements of marketing and business planning to facilitate product movement to the end user.

Salary: On target earnings £30,000 + (Base salary range £16,000/20,000 + commission) + company car and full package of large company benefits.

Application Software Manager

Location: West London.
Age: 25-35, with a degree or equivalent and have gained at least 3 years practical experience within the area of P.C. software with a strong emphasis towards application programmes.

Job Description: To identify, establish and develop a comprehensive list of Compaq authorised application software packages, by developing a close working relationship

with all the leading U.K. software houses.

The software manager will be responsible for both current and future software products and will ensure that all s/w houses are kept fully up to date with all Compaq present and future product developments.

Salary: Up to £18,000 + company car and full package of large company benefits.

Financial Planner/Analyst

Location: West London.
Age: Early 30s, qualified accountant or relevant business degree, preferably with 3 years experience of financial planning in a U.K. subsidiary of an American multinational, ideally in the high technology area.

Job Description: Responsible not only for all financial accounting procedures, the candidate will also have reporting to him all administrative functions within the U.K. Head Office.

Salary: £20-25,000 + company car and full package of large company benefits.

Dealer Technical Support

Location: West London.
Age: 25-35.

Job Description: Front line problem solver for Dealer Network. Office based and using a telephone you will support Dealers by answering queries on a whole range of hardware and software problems. You will need

a cool head and wide knowledge of micro computers. Extensive training will be given.

Salary: Up to £12,000 and full package of large company benefits.

Service Manager

Location: West London.

Age: 25-35, preferably with a minimum of 3/4 years experience within the personal computer market.

Job Description: Responsible for service invoice administration, spare parts, inventory management, and service training for the Dealer network, as well as liaising closely with the technical support function to offer Dealer assistance in hardware/operating software diagnostics.

Salary: £12-15,000 + full package of large company benefits.

Administration Manager

Location: West London.
Age: 30-40.

Job Description: Responsible for sales order processing including unit and spare parts kit pricing, and liaising with Head Office in Houston to place orders for units and spare parts; monitoring and updating Dealer Application Forms, Dealer Agreements and all training material and training schedules.

Salary: £12-15,000 + full package of large company benefits.

*IBM is the registered trade mark for International Business Machines.

COMPAQ
COMPUTER LIMITED



Two Senior Financial Appointments with Fisons

Loughborough

The Pharmaceutical Division of Fisons plc manufactures and markets internationally a wide range of ethical and proprietary products of which almost 75% are sold overseas.

Expansion and re-organisation within the Financial Control function at our headquarters in Loughborough has created two opportunities at senior level.

Assistant Controller

— Divisional Accounting c£16,000 + Car

An important new managerial position with responsibility for the control and management of the financial accounting and management accounting functions and the provision of an effective information service to enable management to review and control the Division's worldwide performance. The job demands substantial management input and will require in-depth experience of financial and management accounting in industry—preferably with an international outlook. You will probably be a graduate, but certainly a fully qualified Accountant with the ability to lead a professional team and to interpret and present complex information to senior management.

Credit Manager

c£12,000

To assume full responsibility for the financial control of the Division's sales activities by ensuring appropriate credit arrangements with UK and overseas customers. Equally important is the provision of a service to sales/marketing management to facilitate new business by securing appropriate lines of credit. The job requires a Credit professional. Membership of the Institute of Credit Management and—ideally—accountancy qualifications. It is unlikely that anyone under 45 could handle the responsibilities involved and substantial relevant experience is essential.

Assistance with relocation is included in the attractive terms and conditions. Please send a detailed C.V. or telephone for an application form to: Mrs. C. Audas, Personnel Officer.

FISONS

Pharmaceuticals

Fisons plc Pharmaceutical Division, 12 Derby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 0BB. Tel: (0509) 263113.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

London c£25,000 & benefits

A progressive medium sized industry federation with substantial resources is poised for significant expansion. New and improved services including training, technical support and publicity are elements of the strategy to increase membership and enhance the standing and influence of the federation.

A chief executive is required to develop and implement these plans. Candidates, aged 35-45 with a business or technically related degree, must have substantial general management/marketing experience ideally in a construction related sector. Administrative, financial, leadership and lobbying skills are essential. Involvement with industry representation and government liaison would be particularly relevant.

Benefits for discussion include flexible salary, car, pension, medical cover, relocation etc.

Please send full career history, in total confidence, to: Giles Foy, quoting reference 899/T.

Craiffen Corporate Consultants Limited, 2 Berkeley Square, London W1X 5HG. Tel: 01-629 0682



CRAIFFEN CORPORATE CONSULTANTS
Executive Selection Division

CROSSOCEANS LIMITED

This Company, part of a large international trading organisation, seeks an experienced Marketing and Sales Director.

Applicants, who may be of either sex, must be able to demonstrate qualities measurable against the undermentioned criteria:-

- a successful track record of marketing and selling a complete range of industrial goods and services into the Middle East and Africa.
- experience of sourcing both industrial and consumer items for onward sale into Europe, from the United States and South East Asia.
- experience of the negotiation and subsequent monitoring of multi-million dollar capital projects.
- financially orientated with experience of developing profitable opportunities from a low base.
- a successful results-orientated career in a multi-national environment.

It is unlikely that anyone currently earning less than £20K pa will have had the necessary experience.

Interested persons should apply with full written details of experience and qualifications to:-
The Managing Director (REF: JDB/JLW),
CROSSOCEANS LIMITED,
6 Princes Gate, LONDON, SW7 1QJ.

WARDLEY LONDON LIMITED

member: HongkongBank group

Assistant Company Secretaries

We are looking for two individuals to act as Company Secretaries of a number of group companies and to assist the Group Secretary with others. The work will involve both statutory and non-statutory requirements.

The individuals concerned must have worked in similar capacities in a group of companies or within the company department of a firm of Accountants or Registrars and will be in their late 20s or early 30s. A relevant professional qualification is necessary.

Attractive salaries and banking benefits will be provided.

Please send applications with full curriculum vitae to:-

C. E. Fiddian-Green, Wardley London Limited,
7, Devonshire Square, London EC2.

Product Group Manager ~Grocery

Britvic Ltd. as part of the Allied Lyons group has an expanding marketing department which now requires a professional and totally committed experienced marketer to assist in achieving the Company's expansion plans. Britvic take home sales have doubled in 1983, and plans in 1984 will ensure even greater growth. The person appointed will take major responsibility for the Company's brands, including Dr. Pepper in the U.K. take home sector. He, she, will also be responsible for driving a range of fruit juice based products into these markets.

We are looking for an experienced Product Group Manager, with an in-depth knowledge of 'Cut-Throat' grocery markets. Your experience will have been gained in F.M.C.G. Grocery, and/or Fast Food, Off Licences, C.T.N. Sectors.

An attractive benefits package including a company car and removal expenses where applicable will be available for the successful candidate. In the first instance you should write with full C.V. to Mr. J. Harrison, Personnel Manager (South), Britvic Ltd., Britvic House, Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1TU.

Britvic is a registered trademark

Britvic

International Planned Parenthood Federation

is a non-governmental organisation constituted of about 100 Family Planning Associations. It supports family planning programmes all over the world, largely through its own affiliates.

Applications are invited for the post of:

Programme Adviser, Youth and Women's Development

(For a Fixed Period of Two Years)

The successful candidate will contribute to the development, promotion and monitoring of programme policies, guidelines and strategies within the Federation in the areas of youth and women's development. The job holder will also help promote the inclusion of family planning and family life education in programmes for young people and women world-wide.

Applicants must have a degree, or equivalent together with a post-graduate professional qualification in a behavioural science or development related field, and a minimum of five years' experience of planning / managing programmes for young people or women in developing countries. Experience of population / field related programmes would be a definite advantage as would experience in working with other international development agencies.

Salary £13,836 p.a. and other fringe benefits.

Please send full C.V. by 6th April 1984 to:-
Director, Personnel and Administration,
IPPF, 18 - 20 Lower Regent Street,
London, SW1Y 4PW.



INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION

Finding a niche in politics

Direct political appointments are limited by the number of constituencies, multiplied by the number of parties with the additional regional and regional staffs. In practice not all the constituencies have full or even part time employees. The Labour Party has only 63 agents while the SDP has none at all. Each MP can have a secretary or a researcher (or both) and ministers in government and senior opposition spokesmen often have their own researchers and/or personal assistants. Public monies are available for the official opposition to hire such staff members. Secretaries are paid by the MP and there is no fixed scale, although there is a fixed allowance to the MP. Although it is necessary for the

MARKET

Although there appears to be some hesitancy in the recruitment market as a whole, the demand for those with management, professional and technical skills continues to rise sharply over last year.

In January the volume of recruitment advertising carried in the seven "quality" national newspapers was more than 15 per cent higher than last year — even though *Times* News papers lost several issues because of an industrial dispute. In February the advertising volume was up by almost 47 per cent.

HAY-MSL report that: "The level of (executive) demand has been rising quietly but consistently, almost without interruption, since the middle of 1981, in line with similar trends reported from the United States." They note that demand increased 81 per cent between 1981 and 1983.

The growth within the high technology industries has been the fastest single factor in the growth in

The Labour agents, and there are far fewer of them, should take a diploma exam but have no courses available. Despite the fact that there is a national agent service most agents are funded by local parties themselves through sponsored MPs or through local activities. Most jobs are advertised locally but they also find their way into some of the Party's journals, both formal and unrecognized.

In January the volume of recruitment advertising carried in the seven "quality" national newspapers was more than 15 per cent higher than last year — even though Times Newspapers lost several issues because of an industrial dispute. In February the advertising volume was up by almost 47 per cent.

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The growth within the high technology industries has been the dominant single factor in the growth in

Philip Schofield

KGB KGB MICROS LIMITED
106 ST LEONARDS ROAD
WINDSOR BERKS SL4 3DD

Screen Entertainment
30-31 Golden Square,
London W1A 4DY

Charles Barker

We invite applications from solicitors, age 30-50, with at least five years' experience of pensions work as head or deputy of a specialist department. Unadmitted candidates with in-depth experience of the pensions industry will also be considered, although the partnership prospects will obviously not apply. The successful candidate will be responsible for supervising the department and advising a broad range of clients on all aspects of pensions-related matters. Key personal attributes will include concise communication skills, the ability to manage a team and the presence to deal effectively with Clients at a Senior level in the commercial, industrial and professional sectors. Initial salary negotiable in the range £20,000 - £25,000, dependent on age and experience. Applications, in strict confidence, under reference PM 067/TT to the Managing Director:

This vacancy calls for accountants qualified either ACA, ACCA, or ACMA, aged 40-50, who have acquired a minimum of 7 years post qualification accounting experience gained either in a charity, or in commerce, or in the HM Services, and at least 2 years of which will have been spent controlling an accounting team of between 10 and 20 personnel. The brief is widely drawn, and will involve taking over responsibility from the retiring Chief Accountant to cover the co-ordination of the total accounting function, through a small team, and the production of quarterly accounting information, cash management, budgets, forecasts and the management of short and long term investments. The ability to set priorities, cope personally with a wide variety of activities in a positive and calm manner is important. Initial salary negotiable, £16,500 - £18,500 + car, contributory pension, free life assurance, BUPA, assistance with removal expenses if necessary. Applications in strict confidence under reference CA068/TT, to the Managing Director:

**178-202 Great Portland Street,
London W1N 5TB. Tel: 01-631 4411.
Ashley House, Ashley Road, Altrincham,
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As one of the country's leading and most successful brewery groups there is a constant need to develop staff to meet the aim of increasing control, productivity and quality information and, in turn, profitability.

The project Manager is responsible for planning and allocating specific projects to a small team of Business Analysts who are effectively Line Managers on ways to increase the effectiveness of their departments. The work is demanding — it requires a well disciplined committed individual with previous management experience who is able to motivate and control several members of a team, examining effective results on time.

Ideally, you will be a graduate with considerable previous work experience and

Our client, a well established service organisation who has been operating throughout the Eastern Province for many years now requires Teachers (English/Mathematics) to teach job related academic classes to Saudi Arabian Nationals. You will also prepare daily and weekly lesson plans, diagnose individual teaching difficulties and plan remedial teaching.

Excellent benefits are offered to qualified and experienced teachers, including one year single status contracts, free food or allowance.

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This new appointment requires graduate/post-graduate mechanical/electrical engineering qualifications, experience of CNC controlled machine tools and cutting tool development, and in-depth mechanical engineering experience.

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Your career to date has been successful. It has also given you ample opportunity to demonstrate your creative, analytical and problem-solving capabilities. Now you're ready to broaden your career horizons.

If you've already had experience as a computer systems user or designer that would be an obvious advantage. Aged between 25-35, you will definitely be numerous and possess excellent communication skills as well as a keen commercial awareness.

With Brooke Bond Oxo's Management Services Division you'll benefit from a continuous training and development programme and will work as one of a team involved in investigating, analysing and

Our client is a long established and successful group with a profitable turnover in excess of £2m. in the distribution and servicing of high quality mechanical handling and allied storage equipment.

The appointment of a General Manager results from recent growth and diversification. The successful candidate will understand and deputise for the Commercial Director. You will have extensive experience in sales, production administration, and for a number of specific projects designed to take the Company successfully into its next phase of development.

Successful candidates will have prior experience as administrators, managers or firm controllers around 35, with a background in the marketing and sales of capital or industrial specialty equipment, preferably with a servicing background. The successful candidate will have proven financial skills and knowledge of

[illegible]

(English mother tongue standard)
to work in its European Secretariat in
Knightsbridge, London.
The work involves the translation into English
of documents on agriculture and related subjects
occasional consecutive interpreting.
Candidates must offer French (to good honours
level), Dutch and preferably German, and
also at least three years' experience as a professional
translator, preferably in agriculture or a related field
working knowledge of Italian or Spanish would
be an advantage.
Applicants according to qualifications and experience.
Application forms from: The Director of
Languages, NFU, Agriculture House, Knigh-
tsbridge, London SW1X 7NJ.
Closing date for applications 4th April, 1984

The Ramblers' Association is to appoint a new member of staff to undertake research and other work on public rights of way. The main aspect of the job will be to monitor the workings of Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which deals with the law on public paths in England and Wales. The job will be based in London and the successful applicant will have an interest in the countryside and at least a basic understanding of the law relating to rights of way. Further details can be obtained from the Association's Secretary at: 1/5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2LJ. The closing date for applications is 13th April 1984.

Governor fears threat to lending

By Sarah Hogg and William Kay

The Budget will have a "serious effect" on the banks, according to the Governor of the Bank of England yesterday.

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, in his first appearance before the Treasury Select Committee of MPs, said a special study of the effect of the abolition of capital allowances and the introduction of composite rate tax on bank interest, carried out by the Bank of England, suggested that it was not going to make it easier for the banks to sustain lending to industry.

Although the Bank "thought well" of the Budget overall, Mr Leigh-Pemberton also said it would have been a "tremendous help" if stamp duty had been abolished entirely, in attracting business back to the London stock market.

He also said the Bank could "see great advantages" in the abolition of further special tax reliefs, in line with the changes made in relation to life assurance, and mentioned both pension funds and mortgage tax relief.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton accepts that within the overall context of a neutral Budget it was "almost necessary" for the Chancellor to squeeze the banks. He implicitly admitted they were sufficiently well-padded to supply the Chancellor with extra revenue.

He also defended the introduction of composite rate tax on bank interest by saying that the case for uniformity of treatment of banks and building societies was "a strong one".

The Government questioned on wider issues, said interest rates might have to go up if personal borrowing, which had become such a "dominant feature" of the monetary scene over the past few months, continued strongly. He admitted the danger that this might depress industrial growth.

Discussing the Government's longer-term plans, Mr Leigh-Pemberton accepted the difficulties of controlling expenditure. On inflation, he insisted the trend was still downward.



Major keeps tanks at snail's pace

When 36 Chieftain tanks from the Royal Armoured Corps Regiment at Tidworth, drove through the new Wilshire village of Codford St Peter during their annual road test yesterday they were forced to fall in behind the green Volkswagen of retired major Michael Cottrill (left), as he conducted the bemused convoy at a snail's pace along the entire length of the high street.

Major Cottrill's unscheduled manoeuvres were his way of protesting at the noise and nuisance caused last year by speeding tanks in the village. The major, aged 55, said his protest had been "well worth it". They reduced their speed considerably.

Queen's invitation to Israel

Continued from page 1

visit, which is being made at the invitation of the Anglo-Jewish community. He explained that his timing, immediately after the Queen's return from five days in Jordan, was coincidental.

"The world, including Britain, has an obsession with the Arab-Israeli conflict," he said. "I shall be stressing that it is the intercommunal war in the Muslim world - the conflict between Iran and Iraq - which should be of real concern internationally rather than whether or not a few more Jewish have moved into a settlement."

The President, whose election by the Knesset last May was a bitter political blow to the then Prime Minister, Mr Menachem Begin will outline to Mrs Thatcher and British

MP's his view of the issues which will dominate the general election expected here later this year. Regarded as Israel's leading military analyst, he will also outline Israel's policy in Lebanon.

Since taking office, Mr Herzog - who still talks with a marked Irish lilt - has quickly established a reputation as a humane moderator between the bitterly divided sections of Israeli society. Last week he staged an unprecedented meeting at his residence between leading members of the left wing Peace Now Movement and the hawkish Jewish Exponent (The block of the faithful). Further such debates are planned.

Although the Presidency is traditionally non-political, Mr Herzog probably commands more widespread popularity in

Israel than any individual politician from either of the main political streams. He has not hesitated to intervene in certain Israeli disputes - such as the crippling doctor's strike and a row over a play - allegedly blaspheming God.

Anti-missile system for royal plane

An anti-missile system similar to that installed on the American President's aircraft, Air Force One, has been fitted to the British Airways Tristar which will carry the Queen and Prince Philip to Jordan (Alan Hamilton writes).

The system, manned by an RAF technician, is designed to detect any oncoming missile or aircraft, to warn the pilot, and to fire a flare to deflect any heat-seeking weapon.

80% of pits closed by pickets

Continued from page 1

had occurred where there was a strong police representation.

Seven pits in Staffordshire became the latest to halt production because of tightly-organized picketing, although men went into five of the collieries. The decision by hundreds of miners not to cross picket lines yesterday afternoon appeared to be in response to the Midlands area decision earlier.

The police said that 25 pickets were arrested at collieries in Nottinghamshire yesterday but no violence was reported. All the arrests had been for obstruction.

Police costs move, page 2

Letter from San Salvador

Vote for El Corrupto, Madman or the Nazi

If the campaign rhetoric of the candidates is to be believed, El Salvador's presidential contest on Sunday is between two men who are mentally ill and a third who you would not insure your car with, let alone your country's future.

Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, spitting out his words like machine-gun bullets, insists in all his rallies that his chief rival, Señor José Napoleón Duarte, is "mad" - "el loco" - "bonkers" - "insane" amid such like equivalents in Salvadorean argot. The Major's associates in the extreme right Arena party are more specific, labelling Señor Duarte "a paranoid schizophrenic".

Señor Duarte, aged 58, a Christian Democrat, brands D'Aubuisson a "Nazi" and nicknames him "Roberto d'Escuadron" after an *escuadron de la muerte*, or death squad. It is common on the campaign trail to hear Major D'Aubuisson called a "psychopath", picking up on the famous tag of a former United States ambassador to El Salvador put on him, "a pathological killer".

And the dark horse candidate, Dr Francisco Guerrero, "Chachi" to his friends, of the establishment National Conciliation Party, is known as *El Corrupto*, recalling accusations a few years back that he was a whisky contrabandist. There is a joke doing the rounds in El Salvador at the moment: "How do you say corrupt in Japanese?" "Chachi".

The three candidates make their entry at election rallies in heavily theatrical styles. Major D'Aubuisson, aged 40, always arrives in a convoy of thickly bullet-proofed Chevrolet Cheeps. He steps out, carries his way through the crowd to the podium, a John Travolta figure in high cowboy boots and tight jeans, surrounded by men in dark glasses with machine guns over their shoulders.

Before he speaks, he exhorts the crowd to clap along with him to the Arena theme tune

forever blasting away from a loudspeaker in the background. "El Salvador will be the tomb", the song goes, "where the reds will meet their doom."

The entry of Señor Duarte, the old man of Salvadorean politics, is much more stately. He walks slowly, loose-fitting shirts disguising a substantial paunch, as he waves with benevolent aloofness to the crowd. "Look at him," say his critics, "he thinks he's the Messiah. God come to earth to save El Salvador."

Dr Guerrero, aged 58, likes to appear on stage in the guise of a rock star, a role particularly at odds with his shrunken frame and avuncular, heavily bespectacled face.

As he bounces his jovial way through the crowds, his campaign manager turns up the volume on *Hai a Fein*, the song from the film *Flashdance*, or sometimes it is the theme tune from *Star Wars*, both implicitly suggesting there is some truth in the widespread belief in El Salvador that the American embassy supports Chachi, the candidate most eager to please, the man most likely to bend to US policy, whatever it may be.

The central message of Major D'Aubuisson's speeches, delivered with ferocious energy up and down the country, is characteristically frank: You are either with him or against him. If you are against him, you are a communist and all communists must be liquidated and then, and only then, will the country's problems be solved.

Señor Duarte's booming voice exudes passionate sincerity, scoffing at Major D'Aubuisson's "peace of the cemeteries", and offering in its place "a social pact" which, he appears to believe, everyone, extreme right and extreme left, will embrace, penitentially laying down their arms and restoring health to the rotten Salvadorean state.

John Carlin

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

1984 COLLINS DICTIONARIES

TIMES CROSSWORD CHAMPIONSHIP

All regional finals will begin at 2pm, and competitors qualifying may check in from 1pm onwards.

In accordance with the conditions previously published entrants who have been notified of qualification for the Championship and who have chosen the under-mentioned venues (which comprise all venues except Glasgow and Leeds) are required to attempt this eliminator puzzle and to send it with the completed form to Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championships, P.O. Box 4 Bridlington, North Humberside YO15 2EW, so that the envelope is postmarked not later than Monday, March 26.

The reductions to be effected are: Bristol entries to be reduced from 312 to 150, combined entries for London A & B to be reduced from 1,197 to 600.

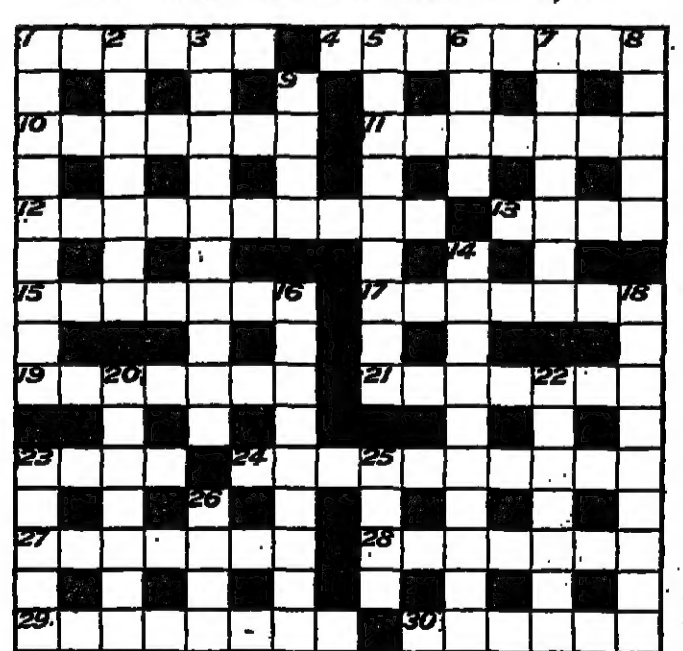
All successful entrants for Bristol and London are strongly urged to submit their attempts even if they cannot completely solve the puzzle, since it is probable that many partly correct entries will qualify, the intention being to have many competitors at the regional finals as can be accommodated. (Last year, Bristol solvers with up to three errors, and London solvers with up to six, qualified).

The solution will appear next Wednesday and entrants will be individually informed of the result of the elimination within three weeks.

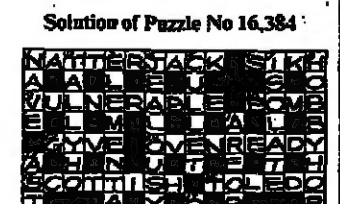
Name (please print).....

Venue (as previously chosen).....

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,385



- ACROSS**
- Shooting type, used to get a couple of pints on the wireless (3,3).
 - English town where there was early suspicion of the law (8).
 - Whip has a record a member may find shady (7).
 - God, too, or otherwise measure rays with this (10).
 - Day girl fancied by this traitor: a bit well (4).
 - Composer who sounds accusing (8).
 - Read time, or otherwise measure rays with this (10).
 - Day girl fancied by this traitor: a bit well (4).
 - Composer who sounds accusing (8).
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 - Composer who sounds accusing (8).
 - Read time, or otherwise measure rays with this (10).
 - Day girl fancied by this traitor: a bit well (4).
 - Composer who sounds accusing (8).
- DOWN**
- Instrument of agreement on Greek maiden name (9).
 - Novel - what, this insect? (7).
 - Bible-pusher whom some might mispronounce a leymen (10).



CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend a gala performance of *Sterling Express* in aid of the Centre for World Development Education at the Apollo Theatre, Victoria, 7.50.

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron and Twelfth Man, presents the Lord's Taverners' Schweppes County Championship Trophy at Buckingham Palace, 4.30.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother attends the annual general meeting of Queen Mary's London Needlework Guild at St James's Palace, 3.25.

The Princess of Wales visits the Burley's Way Factory of W. Kempton Ltd, Burley Way, Leicester, 12.30; and later visits Charwood Mosaic Society Globe House, Forest Rd, Loughborough, Leicestershire, 1.50.

Princess Margaret attends a Service of Thanksgiving on the completion of the restoration work, Chesham Cathedral, 2.45.

The Duke of Kent visits H. Clarkson & Son, 12 Camomile St, 12.15; and later lunches with the Balfour Exchange at St. Mary Axe, London, EC3, 12.45.

Last chance to see
Francis Dempsey - Watercolours Exhibition; MacLaurin Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr, 11 to 5 (ends today).

Exhibitions in progress
Recent work of Alexander Fraser: Aberdeen Art Galleries, School Hill, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 10.30, Sun 2 to 5 (until April 7).

Retrospective Exhibition, Colin Thomas, Artspace Gallery 21 Castle St, Aberdeen; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Thurs 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5 (ends March 28).

Ivor Abrahams, The Garden Image: Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton; Mon to Sat 9.30 to 5.30, Sun 10 to 5 (closed Wed & Sun) (until April 7).

Summerhill Art Gallery, Municipal Offices, Cornwall; Mon to Fri 10 to 1, 2 to 4.30 (closed Sat & Sun) (until March 30).

Anthropological Collections in Cambridge: Adams Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington St, Tues to Sat 10 to 4.30, Sun 2.15 to 4.50 (until May 6).

150 years of architectural drawings: Sheffield City Art Galleries, Weston Park, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 11 to 5 (until April 8).

Exhibitions of illustrations by past and present students: Festival Gallery, 1 Pierrepont Place, Bath; Tues to Sat 11 to 5 (closed Sun & Mon) (until March 31).

Paint exhibition: Ikon Gallery, 58-72 John Bright St, Birmingham; Tues to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun & Mon. (until March 31).

Flowers through Four Seasons by Sue Grimshaw, Leicester City Museum, Market Square, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (until April 14).

New books - paperback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
Baroness, Count and Seven Wives, by Elizabeth Bowen (Virago, £3.95)
Devoted Ladies, and *The Rising Tide*, by M. J. Farrar (Jocely Kegan) (Virago, £3.95 each)
Escape With Me, An Oriental Sketchbook, by Robert Stowell (Oxford, £4.50)
India Britannica, by Geoffrey Moorhouse (Granada, £3.95)
James Joyce, by Richard Ellmann (Oxford, £3.95)
J.E.S. The Life and Work of J.E.S. Haldane, by Ronald Clark (Oxford, £3.95)
John Laveille, by Kate O'Brien, introduction by Tamsin Hargreaves (Virago, £3.95)
The Oxford Shakespeare, Henry V, The Taming of the Shrew, and Troilus and Cressida (Oxford, £2.50 each)
The Siege at Peking, by Peter Fleming, introduction by David Bonavia (Oxford, £3.95)

9.30 to 1.30, closed Sun (until April 14).

Paintings by Birdie Page
The Ginnel Gallery, 16 Lloyd Street, Manchester, Mon to Fri 9 to 5, Thurs 9 to 5, closed Sat & Sun (until April 6).

Talks
Court, Stage and Assembly House: the Evolution of the Classical Orchestra, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 7.30.

Music
Piano recital by John Clegg, Lancaster University, Lancaster, 7.30.
Concert by Orchestra Jazzier, The Leadmill, Leadmill, Sheffield, 8.

Concert by Lowri Blake (cello) and Caroline Palmer (piano), St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, 1.21.
St John Passion, Uppingham School choir, nr Leicester, The Chapel, 7.30.

New London exhibitions
Works by Thelma Hulbert, Christopher Hull Gallery, 670 Fulham Road, SW6; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4, closed Sun & Mon (until April 21).

Recent work by Leon Kossoff, Fischer Fine Art, 30 King Street, St James's, SW1; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 12.30, closed Sun (until April 27).

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Debates on foreign affairs and on the CAP.
Lords (3): Housing and Building Control Bill, report, first day.

Anniversaries
Births: Sir Anthony Van Dyck, painter, Antwerp, 1599; Carl Rosa, impresario and founder of the opera company bearing his name, Hamburg, 1842.
Deaths: Jean-Baptiste Lully, composer, Paris, 1687; Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Weimar, Germany, 1832.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.57	1.49
Austria Sch	28.00	26.40
Belgium Fr	82.50	78.50
Canada \$	1.68	1.61
Denmark Kr	12.01	11.51
France Fr	6.55	6.25
Germany DM	3.91	3.73
Greece Dr	162.00	152.00
Hong Kong \$	11.58	10.98
Ireland £	1.28	1.22
Italy Lira	2410.00	2310.00
Japan Yen	339.00	323.00
Netherlands Gld	4.44	4.22
Norway Kr	11.40	10.80
Portugal Esc	196.00	186.00
South Africa Rd	1.96	1.82
Spain Ptas	220.50	211.50
Sweden Kr	11.70	11.10
Switzerland Fr	3.24	3.07
USA \$	1.47	1.42
Yugoslavia Dnr	188.00	178.00

Retail Price Index: 344.00
London: The FT Index closed up 3.8 at 901.4.

Roads

London and South-east: Junction improvement, widths reduced at Suddry Road and Grove Road at A11, Mile End Road. Gate main replacements, long delays at West Street, Farnham, Surrey, A215: One way southbound, northbound diverted, temporary lights, avoid High Street, South Norwiche, between South Norwiche Hill and Buxford at junction 32 (M4) Merthyr Tydfil, A55: Temporary signals between Bangor and Woburn at Corwen.

North: A68: Investigation into bridge structure, temporary lights at Cowsliff Bridge, on Durham, A68: Roadworks at Broomfield, Northumberland; A1: Roadworks at junction of Market Way, Northgate roundabout, Wakefield.

Scotland: A82: Two way on southbound carriageway at Cumbernauld Road, between Hill and Oliver, Buxford at junction 32 (M4) Merthyr Tydfil, A55: Temporary signals between Bangor and Woburn at Corwen.

South: A82: Roadworks at Broomfield, Northumberland; A1: Roadworks at junction of Market Way, Northgate roundabout, Wakefield.

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Weather forecast

A deep depression to the SW of Iceland will remain slow moving whilst frontal troughs swing E across the UK.

6am to midnight

London, SE England, E Angles: Cloudy at first a little rain in places dying out, sunny intervals isolated showers later, wind mainly SW light, max temp 8C (46F).

SW, NW, NE, England, Wales, Lake District: Becoming cloudy with outbreaks of rain turning showery with bright intervals, late wind SW moderate, max temp 8C (46F).

Ireland, Man, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: Cloudy with rain, turning showery with some bright intervals, wind SW fresh to strong, max temp 7C (45F).

Border, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Can Highlands: Bright intervals at first, becoming cloudy with rain at times, wind SW fresh, max temp 8C (46F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rain or snow dying out then a few bright intervals, further rain later, wind S strong locally, max temp 7C (45F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Becoming changeable, with showers or longer periods of rain in most areas, rather cold with snow on hills.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: SE moderate, fair, visibility moderate with fog patches, sea slight. Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind variable light, mainly fair, visibility moderate with fog patches, sea smooth. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SW moderate backing S fresh, showers, visibility moderate, becoming good, sea slight increasing moderate.

Information supplied by the AA

The papers
The Daily Mirror commenting on the EEC summit breakdown says: "Whatever the reasons, the excuses and the explanations, the fact is that Mrs Thatcher went to the market in Brussels and came back empty-handed. Sugar the pill as she will, she lost. As a result, the European Economic Community is in deep crisis. Sucking two fingers up to Europe is the easy way nowadays for a politician to win applause in Britain. But where does it get us? When we are in a minority of one out of ten, isn't it just possible we are in the wrong?"

The view of the Daily Star however, is that "Blaming Mrs Thatcher for the breakdown of the EEC summit is like blaming a householder for demanding the burglar gives back his loot. Of course the Prime Minister is not going to compromise over money that is rightfully ours and a system that is blatantly unfair to us. Why the hell should she? For too long the Common Market has been run like a French farmers' benefit."

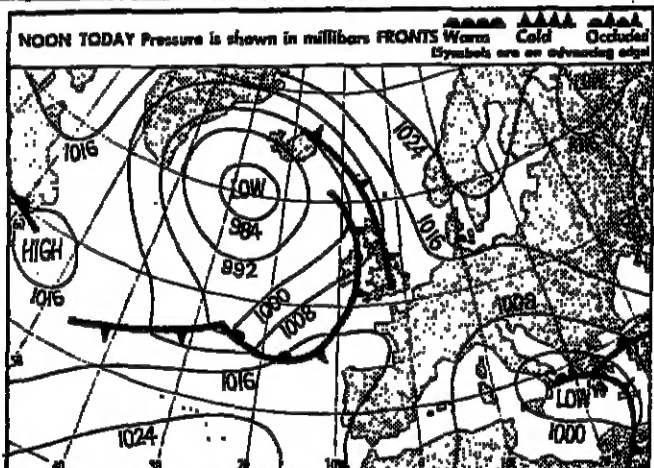
The Daily Express says: "Nothing concentrates a man's mind more than the prospect of being hanged. This is how Mrs Thatcher approaches the Common Market. It adds: 'What the Prime Minister has done in Brussels is to say, in effect, "stop the clowning". Why should a community of 250 million people be held hostage by 10 million farmers? Why should we produce expensive food, far surplus to requirements, just to keep the agricultural lobby in the state to which it has become accustomed?'"

Lighting-up time
London 6.57 pm to 5.26 am
Bristol 6.57 pm to 5.26 am
Edinburgh 7.01 pm to 5.27 am
Manchester 6.56 pm to 5.24 am
Penzance 7.08 pm to 5.48 am

Yesterday
Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Highest and lowest
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Jersey 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Penzance 4C (39F); highest night temp: Penzance (Outer Hebrides) 0.1C; highest sunrise: Tenby, 5 Wales 8.0.

London
Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10C (50F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 4C (39F); humidity: 65%; sun: 24%; rain: 24%; 6.57 pm to 5.26 am. 1011.4 mbars at 9 am. 1011.4 mbars at 9 am.



High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5.02	7.2	5.29	6.8
Aberdeen	4.34	3.8	4.57	4.8
Aberystwyth	10.31	12.6	10.31	12.1
Belfast	5.15	3.5	5.42	4.5
Birkenhead	10.15	11.8	10.36	11.2
Bournemouth	9.06	6.2	9.27	8.1
Bristol	9.06	8.6	9.27	8.1
Cardiff	6.28	5.0	6.51	4.8
Colchester	6.28	5.0	6.51	4.8
Dover	5.38	4.1	5.38	3.8
Exeter	1.21	1.3	1.43	1.5
Gloucester	1.21	1.3	1.43	1.5
Holyhead	9.17	8.7	9.34	8.5
Leamington	1.36	1.7	1.53	1.8
Liverpool	9.17	8.7	9.34	8.5
Luton	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Manchester	1.15	1.8	1.28	1.9
Newcastle	12.31	2.6	1.00	1.4
Nottingham	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Portsmouth	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Reading	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Sheffield	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Southampton	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Stoke-on-Trent	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Torquay	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Walsley-on-Hill	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Worcester	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Wrexham	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Wynne	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Wynne	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Wynne	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Wynne	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Wynne	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Wynne	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
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Wynne	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Wynne	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Wynne	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Wynne	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Wynne	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Wynne	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
Wynne	5.39	5.2	5.25	5.0
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